

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Organization ID and User number for future reference.

Creating a GCOS account is a one-time process and allows you to apply for CSJ and more funding opportunities with Employment and Social Development Canada in a secure web environment. Your GCOS account allows you to: Apply for funding and track your application status for CSJ and other Employment and Social Development Canada programs; Save your application and finish it at any point in time but only while the Call for Application is open; Submit supporting documents and Set up a direct deposit.

For more information or assistance with your GCOS account: Visit: Canada.ca/esdcgrantscontributions

Call: 1-800-367-5693 (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday to Friday); Email: NA-GCOS-SELSC-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca or Visit a Service Canada Centre near you.

The Canada Digital Adoption Program

The Canada Digital Adoption Program (CDAP) can help get your business online, give your e-commerce presence a boost or digitalize your business's operations. The program offers two grants: The Grow Your Business Online grant helps small businesses take advantage of e-commerce opportunities: Access a network of e-commerce advisors for advice and support and Get a microgrant of up to \$2,400 to buy new e-commerce tools.

The Boost Your Business Technology grant helps small and medium-sized businesses adopt new digital technologies. Use a free digital assessment tool to evaluate your business's digital readiness: Get a grant of up to \$15,000 to consult a digital expert and develop a digital adoption plan for your business; Get up to \$100,000 in interest-free loans from BDC to implement your digital adoption plan and Leverage a subsidized work placement to bring on a recent graduate or student to help with your digital transformation. Learn more and apply online: digitaladoption-adoptionnumerique@ised-isd.gc.ca

Update on Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative

As 2023 draws to a close here is an update on the roll out of internet service across Nova Scotia. The Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative has met, and exceeded, the original goal to bring high-speed internet to 95% of underserved homes and businesses. To date, we have close to 97% coverage with access to connections continuing to happen regularly. With the Satellite Internet Service Rebate Program, access is now available to close to 100% of Nova Scotians.

Given the large scale of many of these projects, completion of some project areas has moved into 2024. The types and volume of make ready work required for these project areas is complex and varied, and it is taking additional time for all the pieces to come together.

There have been added challenges that impacted some of these projects. Post-Fiona restoration efforts resulted in temporary shifts of resources by providers and partners from the overall project. This event, and more recent damage related to floodings, hurricanes and wildfires, required resources to be redirected, and further impacted required make-ready work. Make-ready work can include items such as pole inspection and replacements, additional tree trimming and permits to access areas. There are also seasonal impacts such as weight restrictions on some roads and woodpeckers that damage poles.

We are working closely with our partners at Bell, Eastlink, and Nova Scotia Power to minimize these impacts. We will continue to provide updated and timely project specific information on our website at Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative

It's important to note that individual addresses often have access to connections before the full project area is complete and that connections continue to happen regularly. If you have questions, please contact us at satellite@buildns.ca or by calling 1-800-298-2854.

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Notes from our Municipal Council - District 10 Colchester County vibrant and diverse

While writing this column and recognizing the year draws near to the end, I am reflecting on what a busy 52 weeks it has been. Colchester County is a vibrant and diverse municipality; we are growing by leaps and bounds. It truly is an exciting time to live in this beautiful piece of Nova Scotia.

A Request for Proposals has been issued for the Development of the former Salmon River school property. Development will include mixed housing and recreation/green spaces. The information can be found on the home page of colchester.ca the deadline for proposals is January 12, 2024 at 13pm. As a councillor in Colchester, I recognize the need for development, especially housing with a focus on affordable units.

Truro & Colchester CHAMBER of Commerce

Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce Receives Re-Accreditation

By Sherry Martell
By Sherry Martell

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce is among 25 Chambers from across Canada to be recognized for achieving or maintaining accreditation – the highest national standard of Chamber excellence. The local Chamber received its re-accreditation on Dec. 4 from the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada (CACC).

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of our chamber, the work we do to strengthen our business community through advocacy and the programs we offer our membership," said Executive Director Sherry Martell.

To achieve accreditation,

Chambers must pass a detailed review by CACC and demonstrate excellence in leadership, governance and operations. Accreditation sets a strong foundation for success based on best practices, and encourages increased member engagement by signaling dedication to high quality programming and reliable service. It also showcases communities across Canada as great places to do business, backed by the support of exceptional Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade.

"Accreditation is the acknowledgment that a Chamber has been successfully evaluated against a rigorous set of national standards and has demonstrated excellence

Thank you for your support and kind words over the last year. It is truly a pleasure to serve the people living in Colchester County. I look forward to what 2024 will bring us. As always, please reach out at anytime where you think I can be of assistance (902) 890-1493 or vlomond@colchester.ca

I hope you have all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Victoria Lomond is Colchester District 10 councillor and can be reached at: vlomond@colchester.ca or 902-890-1493



Victoria Lomond



Sherry Martell

in Chamber management," said Chuck Davidson, President, Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada.

The accreditation program was developed in 2004 by a team of Chamber executives, in conjunction with provincial and territorial chambers and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The CACC is composed of Chamber representatives from across the country,

and reviews applications for accreditation annually. There are currently 71 accredited Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada.

"We are proud to recognize these Chambers as examples of leading organizations making a difference in communities across the country," Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of more than 500 members and is the second largest Chamber in the province of Nova Scotia.

Sherry Martell ACE (She/Her) is Executive Director, Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, 105B Walker Street, Truro, NS, B2N 4B1 and can be reached at: ed@tcchamber.ca or 902-895-6328

Office Closed Dec 21 to Jan 3

The Truro & Area Chamber of Commerce has advised members the team is taking a festive break to cherish time with our loved ones. The office will be closed from December 21st to January 3rd. Membership renewals are coming your way on January 1st, 2024.

New Mobile App Provides Better Access to Care

Healthcare services, resources, and information are now a tap away with a new mobile app that connects Nova Scotians with care. YourHealthNS helps Nova Scotians better navigate the healthcare system - it is a one-stop shop to book services, navigate care, and find information easier and faster.

"If Nova Scotians can't find the healthcare information they need, they can't make decisions about how to access care," said Premier Tim Houston. "YourHealthNS will help Nova Scotians find the right care when they need it, no matter where they are in the province."

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Key features of this first-of-its-kind app for Nova Scotia include: a home screen that can be personalized with information most important to the individual; the ability to book blood tests, X-rays, flu shots and COVID-19 vaccine appointments; a search tool to find the nearest health services; predicted emergency department wait times; access to vaccination records; access to free, same-day virtual care and the option to chat with a care navigator to help find the best

service or information needed and, if appropriate, direct people to a virtual care visit.

Accessing virtual care has also become easier for Nova Scotians. People on the Need a Family Practice Registry can receive comprehensive care from Nova Scotian healthcare providers who can order diagnostic tests and provide referrals to specialists. Those on the registry will also have access to general consults and prescription refills 24/7, 365 days a year through a partnership

with Maple, one of Canada's leading virtual-care platforms.

Nova Scotians who are attached to a primary care provider will also have access to virtual care, which will include general consults and prescription refills. The Province will cover two visits per year. Nova Scotians without a mobile device can access YourHealthNS online at: <https://www.yourhealthns.ca/>

Nova Scotians are reminded that for emergency care, they should go to an emergency department or call 911.

Let's Revive the 90+ Birthday Party

For 10 years, during my ownership of the Shoreline Journal, I organized a Birthday Party for life-long area residents who had reached the milestone of 90 years young.

Then along came CoVid-19 and we were forced to stop. Now that we are feeling more comfortable about going out in public, **I would like to re-start the birthday party.** Maybe reducing the age requirement to 80.

I'll be contacting local volunteer groups and local churches to assist with pre-registration. I'll start accepting registrations.

Before December 31, 2023, I will need: Complete name; mailing address, date of birth, phone number and email address if available. Further details to be announced later.

The Shoreline Journal

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