

OBITUARIES

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Continued from page 13

Whelan, William “Bill” Francis. On Saturday, November 29, 2025, heaven welcomed the beautiful and faithful soul of William “Bill” Francis Whelan, 85, who passed peacefully with his beloved wife, Lillian, and their daughters by his side. Throughout his illness, Bill remained strong and dignified, embracing his next journey with the calm, steady peacefulness that reflected his unwavering faith. Born in St. John’s, Newfoundland, on December 31, 1939, Bill was the son of Leo Whelan and Florence (Sullivan) Whelan. He is predeceased by his parents and sisters, Judy Whelan, Doreen (Pat) Haggerty, Mary (Fred) Ryan, and Philomena (Don) Perry. Bill is also predeceased by, and now reunited with, his son, Martin William Whelan, who passed in July 2022. He leaves behind his sisters, Rosalita (Gerard) Lacey and Deborah (Kurt) Martin, along with many cherished nieces and nephews. At age 16, Bill joined the Christian Brotherhood, serving until he was 27. He chose the name Brother Bosco—an inspired choice, as Saint John Bosco was known for his pioneering work in education and his devotion to youth. This mission became the guiding force of Bill’s life. Throughout his accomplished career, every role he held was guided by one central question: “And how does this support the students?” As a Brother, Bill attended Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, graduating in 1961 with his BA in English and Teacher Training. In 1968, he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from St. Francis Xavier University followed by a Graduate Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction at Memorial University in 1974. He taught in Harlem, New York; Montreal, Quebec; and St. John’s, Newfoundland before moving to Gander. In 1969, he became the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction—the first step in a transformative 30 year journey as an outstanding educational leader. Bill served as Superintendent in several school boards: Gander-Bonavista School Board 1972-1975; Humber St. Barbe School Board in Corner Brook, 1975-1977, eventually retiring as Superintendent of the St. John’s Roman Catholic School Board, 1982-1989. Retirement, however, was simply another chapter, as in January 1990 he accepted the role of Superintendent of the Colchester East-Hants District School Board in Nova Scotia. He retired again in 1997 but continued to contribute as an educational consultant for many years after. Gander brought another profound gift into Bill’s life. During a St. Joseph’s School staff meeting in the fall of 1968, he met a lovely young teacher, Lillian Marie White of Cull’s Harbour, Bonavista Bay. It was love at first sight. They married on June 20, 1969, and began a life together defined by devotion, humor, resilience, and faith. Three of their four children—Stephen (1970), Sharlene (1971), and Martin (1974–2022)—were born in Gander. A move to Corner Brook followed, and later a return to St. John’s where they welcomed their youngest daughter, Christine (1979). In 1990, they made their home in Truro, Nova Scotia, where they built many treasured memories. Bill’s dedication to his career was surpassed only by his devotion to his family. A disciplined and thoughtful man, he was also a deeply emotional, sensitive soul who loved wholeheartedly. He took immense pride in being a father and a loving, steadfast husband. Throughout their 56 years together, Bill and Lillian embraced life’s joys and challenges with grace, humor, and deep faith. Bill’s heart grew fuller as his family expanded. He warmly welcomed his children’s partners—Nelson Dobson (Sharlene), David Hachey (Christine), and Alice Whitenect (Stephen). Later in life, his greatest joy came from being “Papa.” His grandchildren—Hannah and Joshua Whelan, Simon, Izzy and Max Hachey, and Caitlin, Connor and Cassidy Whitenect- Whelan—brought out his playful, gentle spirit. His eyes lit up at the mere mention of them, and each shared a special, loving bond with him. Bill moved through life with many interests: sports, carpentry, gardening, birdwatching, puzzles and word games, and taking long drives and picnics with Lillian. He was also an avid reader who never stopped learning. Bill’s dedication to teaching continued through the years as he shared his faith leading church programs and Bible studies at Immaculate Conception Parish, where he remained a committed and active member of the community. A life spent in service, love, and generosity defined Bill. In remembering him, we celebrate a life lived with compassion, purpose, and an enduring legacy. Donations in Bill’s memory may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. A visitation was held Monday, December 8th from 4-6pm with The Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning at 6pm in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. A Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, December 9th at 2pm in Immaculate Conception Church, 669 Prince St., Turo. www.ColchesterCommunity.com

PETERSON, Marjorie Louise (née Webb), 81 years, Upper Economy, NS. With deep and abiding love - but also great sadness, Marjorie’s family announces her passing on December 2, 2025. Marjorie endured her lengthy cancer battle with tremendous courage and infinite grace. Marjorie was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Norman and Hazel Webb as their only, and precious, daughter. One of her first jobs was working at Canada Dry in Boston, but eventually her parents convinced their smart and capable daughter to manage the industrial catering business that they owned. In 1972, Marjorie married the love of her life, Ken Peterson. Together they began a highly specialized security company training police and guard dogs. They worked closely with the Massachusetts State Police training both the human and canine officers. As a devoted dog lover, Marjorie was perfect in this role but at the end of the day, she came home not to German Shepherds or Rottweilers, but to her elegant Afghan Hounds and feisty little West Highland White Terriers. Marjorie’s Canadian roots went deep in Five Islands, NS, and in 1977, she and Ken settled there for good. They bought an old farm in Carrs Brook, Colchester Co., and restored it with care. They raised their children, Tracy and Brad, in happy proximity to extended family nearby. Eventually, along with raising cattle and horses on the farm, Marjorie and Ken would buy and operate the General Store in Economy. Marjorie was involved in her community and loved to be a part of its vibrant and busy activities. Her last years were spent happily together with Ken, and her extended family, in Upper Economy, NS. Marjorie will be lovingly missed by Ken, her husband of fifty three years; son Brad (Charlene), granddaughter, Justine; family members, and the many dear friends she made throughout her life. Marjorie was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Tracy Peterson, and her parents, Norman and Hazel. Donations in Marjorie’s memory may be made to We Care About Cancer, in support of the Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Cremation had taken place under the direction of Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow Street, Truro, NS. Condolences may be made online at www.colchestercommunity.com

SYLLIBOY, Dawn Marie – Age 52, Millbrook First Nations, passed away on December 3, 2025, in Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Born in Truro on August 20, 1973, she was a daughter of the late Marlyn Sylliboy and stepfather, the late Donald Paul. Dawn Marie is survived by her children, Kevin Sylliboy, Nathan Sylliboy (Danielle), Jessica Sylliboy; grandchildren, Ashton Sylliboy, Lylah Johnson, Skyren Sylliboy, Jasmine Sylliboy, Joseph Ford, Princeton and Kyrie Sylliboy; sisters, Cathy Paul, Sipekne’katik, Bernadette Sylliboy (Vernon), Esgenoōpetiti, Tracy Sylliboy, Millbrook, Jynell Paul, Sipekne’katik, Kendra Paul, Sipekne’katik, Arianna Paul, Sipekne’katik; uncles, William Sylliboy, Brian Sylliboy (Pauline); aunts, Christine Syliboy and Madeline “Mudd” Syliboy, Sipekne’katik; nieces and nephews, Sage Sylliboy, Brent Sylliboy, Michaela Julian, Vanna Mitchell, Jillisa Nickerson; many great nieces and nephews; godfather, William Sylliboy; godson, Zylen Sylliboy. Besides her parents, Dawn was predeceased by her son, Skyren Sylliboy; sister, Sherry Paul, West Gardiner, ME; maternal grandparents, Benjamin Sylliboy and Elizabeth “Lizzy” Marr-Sylliboy; paternal grandparents, Helen Syliboy and John Syliboy, Sipekne’katik; uncles, Benjamin Sylliboy and Stephen John Sylliboy; godmother, Carolanne Francis. She was also predeceased by her biological father, Matthew Syliboy as well as many aunts and uncles from Sipekne’katik. Dawn enjoyed many sports but especially loved playing softball for the Millbrook ladies’ team. She worked as a bank teller at the Bank of Nova Scotia as well as home care for the elderly in her community. Dawn was also a faithful volunteer for the Millbrook food bank and the Annual Millbrook Pow Wow. Dawn rested at the home of her sister, Tracy, at 148 Fern Drive South, Millbrook on Monday, December 8th from 2pm until time of Funeral Mass on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30 am in Sacred Heart Church, Millbrook. Burial to follow in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Millbrook. Salité will be held in the Nora Bernard Community Centre following burial. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS.

Development Services update presented

By Paul Smith

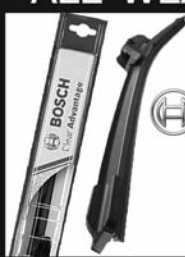
On December 10th, Paul Smith, Director Community Planning presented an overview of activities in the Community Development Department since August, 2025. This section deals with Development Services.

Development Services The Development Officer and Assistant Development Officer continue to see increase in permit applications since the county-wide plan came into place, as predicted. Subdivision plan applications remain consistently higher over previous years. Inquiries from prospective developers/public as well as by-law enforcement have grown significantly and form a large part of day-to-day activities. Two Wind Turbine developments received approval in September: Kmt-nuk Wind Power Project for 19 turbines near the communities of Earltown, McCullum Settlement and North River; and the Windy Ridge Wind Power Project, for 44 turbines, east of Wentworth Valley.

TOMLINSON, Laurence “Laurie” Munroe, 78 of Brentwood, Colchester County – It is with profound sadness, sorrow and heartbreak that I announce the passing of my father on December 8, 2025. Born on December 30, 1946, to Lawrence and Thelma (Cameron) Tomlinson, at Minasville, Hants County, he was the youngest of four children. Dad spoke of his younger years as one of family and moving around - a lot! His Dad worked in different areas and so the family moved considerably. He spoke fondly of extended family members always visiting and the good times that were had especially noting the Mumford and Tomlinson extended families. He spoke of enjoying his time the most with his family while his Dad was working on the St Lawrence Seaway project and the family resided in Morrisburg, Ontario, for a period of time. Dad liked to travel and at the age of 17, stayed with his sister, Carol, in California for a period of time. He had the notion of joining the American Air Force, however, he needed parental consent and Thelma was not going to allow that! By the time he arrived back in Nova Scotia, Thelma had him enrolled at vocational school for auto mechanics (like his dad) but not before, he received a letter of draft for the Vietnam War. Somehow, he had gotten on the radar of the draft while residing in California and his folks had to get him out of that situation!. Dad completed vocational school and also spent time at the Institute of Technology back in the early 1960s. He started at Goodspeeds in Truro and then went to the Fina station in Bible Hill owned by Glen Thompson. He then worked at various garages around Truro as Service Advisor then he and his brother-in-law, Mike Gill, went out on their own for a while. Dad was always handy when it came to automobiles and especially transmissions. He had a knack for building transmissions which resulted in him becoming known and getting work from as far away as the States and always did a lot of transmissions for race cars in the area over the years. Dad also attained his private pilots’ license in the late 1960s and thereafter got his own airplane. Dad enjoyed flying and enjoyed taking people flying with him. Dad was a huge force in my life – in a good way. His advice in my early years were ‘take no sh!t from anyone’, ‘if you think you are going to get into a fight, punch first’ (“but please do not fight”) and “family first – support and help family when and if you can” - oh and “Elvis is the King”. Dad was an avid reader mainly westerns, the war and mystery. He enjoyed history and all things involving antique autos and airplanes. Many family trips involved dad saying the make, model of certain vehicles we would see on our travels and I find I do the same with my son now – though he now knows them all better than me. Dad is from Hants County. The area is in his blood and his soul. He loved the land and was a steward of the land. One of his greatest accomplishments and enjoyments was the “Tomlinson Ranch” that has existed for 30 plus years. He would spend most weekends ‘down shore’ putting, mowing, gardening and visiting friends and family. It will be difficult to not have him there but the legacy continues.... Dad is survived by me, his daughter, Janet Tomlinson, son-in-law, Stephen van Herk and grandson, Kees Tomlinson van Herk, who was his pride and joy and seems to be the next Tomlinson with great mechanical abilities. Dad is also survived by his nephews, Larry Wilson (Michele), Jackie Wilson (Anita) and Darren Bernard. He also is survived by nieces and nephews on his in-law side and a shout-out to his brother-in-law, Allen Gill aka ‘partner in crime’. Dad was predeceased by his wife, Judy; parents Lawrence and Thelma; sisters, Irene, Claudia and Carol and niece, Shawn Bernard. There was a Celebration of Life for Dad on December 16th, from 6-8PM in Colchester Community Funeral Home. If you know Dad well, you know he always wore plaid shirts so in the spirit of Dad and plaid, wear your best plaid. If you do not have plaid, you are still more than welcome to come! Private family burial will be held at a later date. If you would like to donate in Dad’s name, please donate to Oak Island Cemetery in Maitland, c/o Beth Hill, Maitland Community Cemeteries, PO Box 78, Maitland, NS B0N 1T0 or e-transfer to maitlandcommunitycemeteries@gmail.com or the Lower Selma Heritage Cemetery in Lower Selma, Hants County, c/o East Hants Historical Society, 70 Park Road, Unit 2, Elmsdale, NS B2S 2L2 or go to www.ehhs.ca and can make a donation via Paypal or Canada Helps noting donation for the Lower Selma Heritage Cemetery.

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