

Animal Control 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 Animal Control.

Animal Control: The SPCA continues to carry out animal control services for the County and continues to add new ACO's to assist with by-law enforcement. The SPCA keeps the Municipality updated with monthly reports and is quick to respond to any questions or concerns that may arise.

Unightly Premises: There have been 68 new dangerous and unsightly complaints over 2025: 28 were not considered to be dangerous or unsightly; 40 Properties were considered Dangerous and /or Unightly and orders were issued with 25 of those now closed; 12 of the Orders were issued by the Appeals Committee. The Municipality's Waste Management Officer is presently assisting the Building Department with site inspections, documentation and providing a report to the Administrator for all new files.

Facilities Maintenance Coordinator: The Facilities Maintenance Coordinator manages ongoing repairs and upkeep to all municipally owned buildings. The following list outlines current activities:

Projects Completed: Court-house windows installed (5 inserts); Balefill office roof,



replaced with torch applied 2 ply modified bitumen;

- Balefill office air conditioners replaced with newer PTHP units; Raised garden beds installed at Tatamagouche Library; Mold remediated at Debert Aviation Centre; Court-house boiler repaired and inspected (Provincial Inspection); New roll up door and gutters for SHRU; Floor re-finish in Kemptown; Flagpole and soundproof booth installation at the Courthouse.

Currently Working on: Heat pump install at water utility (7 heads, 5 outdoor units); Five Islands lighthouse repair; Fundy Discovery Site office renovation; New Man door for Materials Recovery Facility; Concrete floor repair at Balefill; Walkway for Air Cadets at the Aviation Centre;

- Boiler replacement options for Courthouse; Building inspection training.

Waiting for approval: Debert Aviation siding replacement and leaseholder upgrades; Debert admin building siding repairs; Repointing and roof replacement at Waste-water Plant; Security upgrades at various sites; Third floor carpet replacement (Recreation).

Notes from our Federal Capital
Riding Roundup for January 2026: Straight Talk & Serious Solutions

December brought something I genuinely value: unstructured time with constituents. Our holiday gatherings in Amherst and Truro weren't scripted events—they were opportunities to listen without an agenda. What struck me most wasn't any single conversation, but the pattern that emerged: people don't want performative politics. They want to see people working together and solving real problems.

I spent considerable time this month with leaders who actually do that work—fire chiefs, mayors, business owners, non-profit directors. When the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs came to Ottawa, I connected with Chief Greg Jones from Amherst Fire Department and Chief Rod Nielsen from Brookfield Fire and Emergency Services. These weren't courtesy calls. Emergency services leaders from across Canada shared data that challenges some comfortable assumptions about rural fire protection—volunteer recruitment isn't just declining, it's structurally broken in many communities; equipment lifecycles don't match budget realities; and geographic coverage creates response time gaps that urban models simply don't account for.

I've committed to follow-up conversations in 2026 to focus on the things that will actually help these community leaders succeed.

Veterans Spotlight: No Cuts to Veterans Programs

I serve on the Veterans Affairs Committee, and I want to address something directly because misinformation helps no one—especially not the veterans you've served our country.

You may have heard some chatter online about "\$4.3 billion in cuts to Veterans Services." Let me be crystal clear: this is not a cut to veterans' benefits or services. Not even close.

Here's what's actually happening: (1) This government has committed \$184.9 million this year to fully fund Veterans services. (2) The government is adjusting the reimbursement rate for medical cannabis from approximately \$8.50 per gram to \$6.00 per gram—reflecting a reduction in the actual market price of cannabis in recent years. That \$4.3 billion figure represents the projected SAVINGS over many years from paying market rates instead of inflated prices. It's not money being removed from programs; it's taxpayer dollars being managed responsibly.

Every veteran who qualifies for medical cannabis still qualifies. Eligibility hasn't changed. The full suite of Veterans Affairs benefits and services remains completely intact. What we're doing is ensuring that when we spend



Alana Hirtle

continued on page 6

Notes from our Provincial Capital
NS Power says it will "Make it right"

Good morning from a snowy Colchester North. I wish to begin by giving an update on the Natural Resources Committee meeting with Nova Scotia Power as witness that I mentioned last month.

This meeting gave our committee the opportunity to ask questions on behalf of our residents. Questions with examples of actual concerns/events that have been received at our Constituency offices from residents that are very anxious with respect to their ability to pay their power bill especially at this time of year.

First, I would like to comment that it was disappointing to see that instead of using their allotted time to ask questions on behalf of their residents both opposition parties used a significant portion of their time to try and somehow blame Premier Houston for this issue and the cost of power.

I, first, need to say that we did appreciate that CEO Peter Greg and Chris Lantange Director of Customer Care attended our meeting on short notice. Nova Scotia Power answered most all questions by saying they were sorry and often repeated that they would make things right. Hopefully that gives some comfort to our residents however in my view does not really let them off the hook so to speak.

They advised that all the billing challenges were a result of the

cyber attack that they have identified as being caused by a foreign actor. That is really not in dispute, however, the attack happened close to 8 months ago. There is little doubt that this has put NSP in a very difficult position. However, in my view NSP, it appears they have put themselves and their shareholders ahead of the residents of Nova Scotia.

When faced with not being able to communicate directly with their new smart meters they chose to estimate the bills. In their estimation of these bills, they chose not to simply bill at the usage of the same period the previous year, in many cases they simply doubled that usage and invoice amount.

Pretty hard to explain that rational, but it was blamed on the "SYSTEMS" that they have, and are in the process of hiring meter readers!! A couple of important points from that discussion. They claim to have tested the meters and they are recording properly. They will not be charging late fees or interest.

I will not get into a lot of detail on additional questions in this article and basically provide additional information that I believe is important to residents. This information is all on the record in

continued on page 6



Tom Taggart

Notes from our Provincial Capital
Reminders of some of our achievements in 2025

As we approach the final days prior to the Christmas holiday and turning the calendar to enter I new year, I wish to remind you of some the recent achievements of Tim Holust's PC government as outlined below:

Honouring Canadian Armed Forces Act

Our PC government tabled and passed the Honouring Canadian Armed Forces Members Act with all party support. This act ensures that serving and retired CAF members can wear their uniform with pride in all provincial spaces—because those who defend our freedoms deserve nothing less than our full respect and gratitude.

Cutting Taxes for Small Businesses

Premier Houston and our PC government stand shoulder to shoulder with small businesses across Nova Scotia. That's why we cut the small business tax rate from 2.5% to 1.5% and raised the income threshold from \$500,000 to \$700,000. These changes will help local businesses create jobs, keep more money in their communities, and grow our economy.

Pharmacist Walk In Clinic +

During the summer and fall, I have provided information on the pharmacist walk-in clinic. Here it is again:

The Pharmacist Plus Clinics are another way we're improving access to healthcare for all Nova Scotians. The Truro Lawton's Pharmacist Plus Clinic is a walk-in clinic that has a nurse practitioner and pharmacists working as a team to provide a variety of health care services, from primary care to chronic disease prevention and management.

Services include: Diagnosing and treating routine and more immediate health concerns; Prescribing medications and prescriptions renewals; Medication management or modifications; Chronic disease management; Health screening and preventative care; Ordering and interpreting tests; Vaccinations and injections and Making referrals to specialists and other health care providers

Lawton's Pharmacist Walk-In Clinic +, 316 Willow Street, Suite

continued on page 6



Dave Ritcey

Presentations Meeting
Tuesday, January 6 @ 6pm

Council Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 15 @ 6pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, January 29 @ 6pm

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Municipality of Colchester, 1 Church Street, Truro
902-897-3184 | Colchester.ca

Notice to Readers and Advertisers

Upcoming Deadlines and Publishing Dates

Issue	Deadline	Published
February, 2026	January 20, 2026	January 28, 2026
March, 2026	February 17, 2026	February 25, 2026
April, 2026	March 24, 2026	April 1, 2026
May, 2026	April 21, 2026	April 29, 2026
June, 2026	May 19, 2026	May 27, 2026
July, 2026	June 23, 2026	July 1, 2026
August, 2026	July 21, 2026	July 29, 2026
September, 2026	August 18, 2026	August 26, 2026
October, 2026	September 22, 2026	September 30, 2026
November, 2026	October 20, 2026	October 28, 2026
December, 2026	November 17, 2026	November 25, 2026
January 2027	December 15, 2026	December 22, 2026

For more information contact us at:
The Shoreline Journal, Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0
Ph: 902-647-2968, Cell: 902-890-9850
Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

The Shoreline Journal



The Grinch was making sure everyone behaved on the wagon ride through the Christmas in the Village light display of thirty trees at the Faith Baptist Church in Great Village on Dec. 13th.



Lovely singing by this group following the outdoor wagon ride at Faith Baptist Church in Great Village on Dec. 13th.

The Season of Giving is here

We will not ignore you! We are here to serve you.
Unlike other print publications serving the local area, we will continue to provide home delivery via Canada Post.
12 Months of the Shoreline Journal

Please mail this personal subscription to:

Name: _____
Street: _____
Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
If RENEWAL: Sub # _____ New: _____ Gift: _____
This is a gift subscription from: _____

The Shoreline Journal

Enclose Cheque or Money Order payable to **The Shoreline Journal**
LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L – \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.22 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$31.92
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.20 (HST: 890564404RT0001)
MAIL TO: **The Shoreline Journal**, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0
We are also happy to receive your E-Transfer at maurice@theshorelinejournal.com