

The

Shoreline

Journal

Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

One Person One Record to Launch at IWK

Patients will benefit from safer, better co-ordinated care as the One Person One Record clinical information system came online at IWK Health on Saturday, December 6. It will be implemented at Nova Scotia Health provincewide by the end of 2026.

Designed to securely collect, store and share health information, the system will eventually replace or connect many current systems healthcare professionals use daily to record and view patient information.

IWK healthcare professionals will have access to a patient's complete, up-to-date health information from ambulatory clinics, emergency department visits, mental health and addictions treatment and inpatient care. This will prevent duplication and unnecessary tests and ensure timely decision making.

Once fully implemented, One Patient One Record will bring together information from across Nova Scotia Health and IWK sites for the first time. The system will also support referral and wait-list management across the province.

Minimum Wage to Increase Twice in 2026, Reaching \$17 in October

Nova Scotia's minimum wage will increase twice next year, reaching \$17 an hour in October, following the unanimous recommendation of the Minimum Wage Review Committee. The committee, made up of employer and employee representatives, recommended continuing to apply the legislated formula of the consumer price index (CPI) plus one per cent, with a two-stage increase to give businesses additional time to adjust after last year's larger increases.

As a result, Nova Scotia's minimum wage will increase to \$16.75 per hour on April 1 and to \$17 per hour on October 1. The current rate is \$16.50 per hour. In addition to minimum wage increases, the Province has recently introduced several measures to help residents, including:

More than \$500 million in tax savings; reduced child-care fees for families; frozen university tuition for Nova Scotia students; expanded housing supports for low- and moderate-income residents ABD continued investments to help workers train, learn new skills and access higher-paying jobs.

This year, the minimum wage increased by \$1.30 per hour. Minimum wage earners in the province primarily work in the retail, accommodations and food industries; statistics include: 57 per cent are female; 39 per cent have post-secondary education; 38 per cent are over age 30; 72 per cent hold permanent jobs and 41 per cent work full-time

Nova Scotia Exceeds University Healthcare Program Enrolment Target

Most universities have filled their healthcare programs this fall, surpassing the 97 per cent enrolment target set out in their funding agreements with the Province. The target was nearly 1,800 first-year students filling seats in 35 programs at six universities this year. Enrolment has instead risen to about 1,900 students as programs expanded to meet growing demand.

Under the 2025-27 bilateral agreements between the Province and universities, a portion of a university's operating grant is withheld until it demonstrates that 97 per cent of healthcare program seats are filled. Programs at Acadia, Cape Breton, Dalhousie, St. Francis Xavier and Mount Saint Vincent universities are operating above their original capacity to meet demand. Université Sainte-Anne, which offers a small French-first bachelor of social work program, is slightly below its target with eight of 10 seats filled. The university is working with the Province to increase enrolment.

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, Nova Scotia invested more than \$44.5 million in healthcare education initiatives, in addition to the \$58.9 million invested in 2023 for the new Cape Breton medical campus that opened this fall. The Province also offers targeted incentives for students entering designated healthcare programs, such as free tuition, tuition relief, bursaries, and debt assistance, with specific supports varying by program.

continued on page 13



Colchester

be centred here.

Property Information 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 Property Information.

PROPERTY INFORMATION / GIS SERVICES

Spatial Data Management and Mapping Initiatives: GIS (Geographic Information Systems) enterprise-level system updates were completed in September, enabling compatibility with constantly evolving geoprocessing technology, and improved content delivery capabilities. Transition to new, more cost-efficient and inclusive organizational GIS software licensing model which immediately results in enhanced user account capacity and capabilities, and long-term workforce scalability.

Updating strategic planning for data management, content development and promotion of organizational GIS literacy in the future. Evaluating new tools available since recent system updates and identifying potential projects for the new year, to proactively enable and promote informed decision making through use of geospatial insights.

Ongoing Projects: GIS Solutions and Routine Operations: Ongoing administration of civic addressing, signage, and road names. On demand mapping, geospatial data analytics, and location-based data extraction for municipal staff, and regular statistical reporting for municipal stakeholders and external partners.

Ortho-mapping for staff reports and website updates. Continued work on compiling and visualizing municipal tax area rate data. Drone imagery field data collection for photogrammetry, asset management, and site inspections. Work in progress on an internal interactive dashboard visualizing and summarizing municipal development trends over time.

Updating and sharing of indexed county road map layouts for staff reference. Continued data compilation and 3-dimensional analytics of areas affected by municipal flood zoning, with current focus on recently acquired data for the North Shore area. Assisting consultants with the development of an online flood simulation application.

Online Service Portal and Permit Management System: Managing functionality enhancements and coordinating with service provider on quality assurance and technical support. System continues to be developed, tracking and implementing improvement requests, and gathering feedback from municipal user group. Building expanded GIS rules into the property data in the system, which helps to automatically flag applications under different scenarios or criteria, such as proximity to water or marsh areas, applicable zoning codes, and adjacent road ownership.

User uptake has steadily increased over past year, as more applicants take advantage of the online portal for submitting applications, uploading documents, accessing issued permits and inspection reports, and communicating with municipal staff.

BAIRD'S WELL DRILLING Inc.

"Integrity You Can Trust"

Lic. No 10

Quality Service Since 1947

Residential, Commercial, and Geothermal Wells

Phone: 902-893-2055





Chase's

Color Centre Ltd.

Downtown Truro's Paint & Wallpaper Centre

To our family, friends and customers: Thank you for your support in 2025. Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

897 Prince Street, Truro • 902-895-4678

www.chasescolorcentre.ca



Lawrence R. Nicoll

NOVA SCOTIA LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER

Parrsboro - Nova Scotia

902-254-3334 or LRN@ns.sympatico.ca

Local Landscape photographs make wonderful gifts for birthdays, Christmas and retirement

Choose from samples at:

www.LRNphotographic.ca



LRN PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

NOW OPEN IN TRURO

Boundary Surveys • Subdivision Surveys • Location Certificates • Woodline Surveys



ALLISON LAND SURVEYS LIMITED

Michael Allison, N.S.L.S.

Elmsdale Office: 205 Hwy 214, Elmsdale, NS Elmsdale Tel: 902-883-7541

Truro Office: 90 Esplanade, Suit 12, Truro, NS Truro Tel: 902-843-2221

Open Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Or by appointment.

Warfarin INR tests done IN-STORE.

Call for details!

Guardian

Bayside Pharmacy

6044 Highway #2

Bass River

Tel: 902-647-2552

We administer the Shingles Vaccine. Prevention is the best medicine!!

We offer FREE local delivery – just let us know if you can't make it in and we will bring your prescription to your door!

Our pharmacists perform minor ailment prescribing!

Thank you to all of our loyal customers!

Sincerely, Todd MacKinnon, Pharmacist Owner

Hours of Operation:

Monday 9:30-7

Tuesday 9:30-5

Wednesday 9:30-5

Thursday 9:30-5

Friday 9:30-5

Scotia Metal Products Ltd

Metal Roofing & Siding

Made in Nova Scotia

Many Colours to choose from

Visit our showroom at

188 Joseph Zatzman Drive Dartmouth

902-468-7217

www.scotiametal.ca