

PAGE BRIEFS

Continued from page 6

A park has been created on Alice Street in Truro, part of a block in Truro's East End that was chosen for an Affordable Housing and Beautification project by the former NDP government. The housing was built by Ron Meech of Meech Holdings and residents are now living there. The creation of the public park and playground is the final piece of the original plan.

The province is helping Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities secure better contracts by posting tender notices on the provincial government tenders website. "Glooscap First Nation recently approached us to post a tender for several construction projects," said Internal Services Minister Labi Kousoulis. "They wanted to connect with more suppliers and get the best possible value for their money. We are now making the same offer to all Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia." Last year more than 3,000 public tenders were posted to the site at www.novascotia.ca/tenders. About 2,900 suppliers subscribe to the tender notification service and it has more than 1,400 Twitter followers. The province spends more than \$800 million each year buying goods and services, about 75 per cent of which are purchased from Nova Scotia-based suppliers.

On June 2nd, George Caines, QC, David Read and Pete Lockett were inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame, presented by Stewart McKelvey. The event was attended by c-suite executives from all corners of industry and raised \$299,750 for Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia. The 25th Anniversary celebrations will be held on May 31, 2017. **New and existing** social enterprises now have the choice to apply for designation as a Community Interest Company. Social enterprises use business practices to advance health, social, environmental, cultural markets, used clothing banks, community-owned wind farms and businesses run by charitable organizations. Effective June 15th legislation and regulations allow businesses formed under the Companies Act to be designated as a Community Interest Company. These companies will have characteristics of both businesses and non-profits, combining entrepreneurship with a social purpose. Community interest companies will be required to declare their community purpose, provide a community interest plan and report on their plan annually. They will also be restricted in the amount of dividends they may declare and will also be required to make financial statements public. The Department of Business is working with stakeholders to develop a social enterprise strategy.

Patterson Law's criminal law team is welcoming criminal lawyer Stan MacDonald, Q.C. MacDonald will be working from Patterson Law's Halifax Office. MacDonald will officially join Patterson Law July 1.

Margaret Sagar, wife of WWII veteran Alan Sagar, is supporting the Nova Scotia NDP's call for a Veterans Advocate position to be established in the province. Sagar was recently in the media speaking about how her husband, Alan Sagar, has been denied access to care at Camp Hill. Alan Sagar is an Allied veteran who served in the British navy during the war. This case is similar to other cases that have been denied by Veterans Affairs Canada in recent weeks and months.

continued on page 10

Province to ask Municipalities for Proposals

By Maurice Rees

In an effort to make high-speed Internet service available in more rural communities, the provincial government will ask municipalities to bring forward proposals, and issue a call for information from service providers, so that solutions can be implemented quickly.

In 2016, some Nova Scotians remain without service, or with service that does not meet the demands of current internet use even though the province launched the Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia ("BRNS") project in 2007. The project made thousands of connections across the province, with technology innovation since 2007, the Province deemed that it was an appropriate time to assess the current state of rural broadband service in Nova Scotia.

In 2007, BRNS adopted the definition of broadband service as being "1.5Mbps download speed". The Canadian broadband speed goal, set by the CRTC, has increased to 5Mbps for download speeds, and in 2015, the US Federal Communications Commission voted to change the minimum required download speed to 25 Mbps for any internet service to be defined as "broadband".

An analysis of current technology options indicated there are three available to provide fixed internet services to rural areas. Fixed wireless, wired (cable and fibre), and satellite. The wired fibre technology offers the greatest speed and longest lifespan, however it is the most costly option to implement and therefore could be challenging to deploy to all of Nova Scotia. A viable alternative may be satellite technology. Offering reasonable speeds with the ability to grow over time, it provides an alternative for the more remote or harder to reach areas of the province.

The review of the current state in Nova Scotia suggests that the reliability and speed of broadband solutions could be negatively affecting

social and economic opportunities for residents in rural communities. In areas that lack reliable broadband service access, possible impacts may include; decreased home values, limited opportunity to access online educational resources, challenges in recruiting and retaining employees within rural areas and challenges accessing government services via electronic channels.

Increasing the availability and accessibility of broadband service within Nova Scotia will likely mean that broadband solution deployment will take various forms in different communities and the initiatives will require the participation and collaboration of private sector companies, municipalities, community based cooperatives and various levels of governments.

We recommend that the Province could consider taking an active role in engaging and coordinating local, municipal, federal, and business stakeholders to establish aspirational broadband goals. The province could consider the following actions: Development of provincial goals for broadband access; Coordination of Municipal, and Community based initiatives that would advance progress toward provincial broadband goals; Development of a community based solution evaluation framework and Coordination of provincial

telecommunication procurement, and infrastructure investment activities, to advance the deployment of broadband technologies.

Market forces alone will not ensure that rural communities have access to the educational and economic benefits that broadband internet services can

provide. Solutions should be sustainable over the long term and therefore require a strategic approach to development and deployment. The Province and other levels of government will need to consider playing an active role in assuring rural communities' access to sustainable broadband internet services.

**2016 West Colchester
75 km YARD SALE
Saturday and Sunday
JULY 9-10
8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

"Past Years Have Been A Great Success, So We Want To Do It Again!"

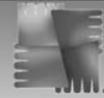
Businesses or anyone wishing to help sponsor/promote this event with an ad please contact the undersigned. This is also a great opportunity for Community organizations, clubs, etc. to raise some money.

We want to get this going again with some help from the community. The date will be the weekend of July 9 and 10. Saturday & Sunday.

As before, the sale starts at Mingo's Corner in Onslow. Just past the 102 exit all the way to Parrsboro on the #2 Highway, including side roads.

This is a great opportunity for households to turn those unwanted items into useful cash and recycle instead of hauling them off to the balefill.

**For further information
Call 902-897-5951
Join our Facebook Group page.**



AVG. CloudCare™

**Is a virus driving you crazy?
Bring it to us for CPR - \$72 + HST**

**Need antivirus Software?
AVG Antivirus - \$50 + HST for two years**

www.failSAFE-computer.com

10 Dominion Street

893-2171

askus@failSAFE-computer.com

Proudly Educating our Customers in Plain English



- COMPUTER & LAPTOP SALES
- WIRELESS/ROUTER SECURITY
- VIRUS & SPYWARE REMOVAL
- CABLES & ACCESSORIES



HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Guardian™

**Bayside Pharmacy
6044 Highway #2
Bass River
Tel: 902-647-2552**

**Are you at risk of Shingles?
We carry and administer the vaccine.
Call to inquire!**

**Be safe in the sun!
We carry all of your sun care needs.**

**We offer a full line of
Pharmacy services
including:**

- Prescription processing
- Free Compliance packaging
- Medication reviews
- Injection/Vaccine Administration (including Flu & Shingles)

**"Transferring your prescriptions is easy
- ask us how, we are here for you!"**



**Karen Casey
Colchester North**

**Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**30 Duke Street, Truro, NS
B2N 2A1
Phone 893-2180
Fax 893-3064**

Email: karencasey@ns.aliantzinc.ca

**"Support Our
Communities,
Buy Local, Eat Fresh"**

www.karencasey.ca

