

Kitchen Korner

...has been preempted for this month to make room for this important introduction of the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

As usual send your family's favourite recipe to:
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Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

By Maurice Rees with files from Tiffany Ward
 Tiffany Ward, the visionary community minded resident from Economy for the initial thoughts which have evolved into Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society, still being organized, sent along Vol 1, No1 of their newsletter. In support of the communities along the Shore and the Society, we are pleased to reprint most of the newsletter and will continue supporting the society however possible. The following is basic contents of the newsletter.

Our Story:
 On April 18th & 19th the most unimaginable tragedy forever changed the story of rural Nova Scotia. What we thought could never happen here has directly impacted the community of West Colchester as well as Wentworth, Shubenacadie and Enfield.

In the days following, a dedicated group of volunteers came forward to create a powerful channel to focus the love and light of the province and the country to support a space for grief and healing for those families and communities who needed it the most. In this most extraordinary time of global pandemic, it was necessary to find ways to grieve together as a community, without actually being together physically the way we otherwise would.

A Facebook group: **Colchester Supporting Our Communities** (now almost 80k strong) was created where people from across the country and around the world can share their support for the families and communities hurting the most. The group is filled with beautiful photos, artwork, and messages of love and support shared from coast to coast.

Through this network and with help and support of new found friends we went on to create and produce the **Virtual Vigil: Nova Scotia Remembers** that was broadcast online and on air across Canada on Friday

April 24th. The vigil brought together Nova Scotia talent along with local faith, community, and business leaders in a demonstration of love and solidarity with the families, friends, and neighbors of those lost.

As we move forward united, the next logical step for us is the creation of The Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society. Our organization will strive to provide continued support to the families and the communities affected by these events over the long-term.

As a grassroots non-profit organization, we hope to lead our community in regaining its unique rural identity and champion the resiliency we have demonstrated over these past weeks towards the best possible outcomes for the families and for us all. Together we can pave a path towards a better future by being there for one another in any way that we can.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those special friends who have worked tirelessly with us in our efforts: Development, production and distribution of the Nova Scotia Remembers Virtual Vigil: Sylvia Beirnes, Matt Treccartin, Jonathan Torrens & Alex White. Support with media inquiries: Eric Michaud and Ongoing support and moderation of our Facebook Group: Haley Beal, Brittany Brown, Rebecca MacAulay, Mia Ward & Todd White.

Our Status:
Education: Financial support for children of those lost, in the form of payment toward their post-secondary education, the creation of scholarships in memory of the victims to support youth in the affected communities as well as other scholarships, bursaries and educational supports.

Memorial: Develop and construct one or more permanent memorials in affected communities to honour the memory of those lost.

Community Development: Develop initiatives and provide financial support to partner organizations working in the affected communities to support growth and recovery.

Coordinated Wellness, Emotional, & Grief Support: For families of the victims as well as other affected individuals and communities. Ideally this involves collaborating with community and other agencies or entities to provide long term support to those who need it.

Our Status & Next Steps:
 Working with our legal and financial partners we are nearing the finish line on our organization's incorporation with our founding board in place. Our next steps are to formalize our mission and goals, develop our working policies, and work through the application process for charitable status from the CRA.

We are beginning to have collaborative conversations with other organizations in the community with which we have common interests in hopes of developing effective partnerships to meet some of our stated goals. We believe that we are stronger together and look forward to working with others towards a brighter future for our shore.

We have received a number of donations to date including a substantial donation of approximately \$40k raised through the Cobequid Spirit Online Auction. Special thanks to Anna Grue, Joelle McLaughlin and Karen Gilbert of Spirit Reins Ranch for their amazing work on this initiative, to all of those individuals and businesses who donated items, to those that bid as well as Victoria Hall and Bayside Pharmacy for their amazing support.

Many other organizations and individuals have pledged their support and we are so thankful for all. We will be working to put the structures in place that will allow us to use the funds to support the families and communities in our key focus areas. Many thanks also to the Municipality of Colchester which is holding many of our donations in trust until we are able to accept them ourselves.

You can visit our websites www.novascotiaremembers.ca and www.heartcolchester.ca for fundraising information for our organization as well as the Red Cross Stronger Together Fund and verified Go Fund Me fundraisers in support of individual families. A special thanks goes to David Sevour at Bluecore Media for all of his support.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the families and communities impacted by this tragedy in any way, as without your support these difficult times would be even darker. So, from the bottom of our hearts: Thank You! Vangie Beal, Roberta Lattie, Tory Phinney, Mary Teed, Cees van den Hoek & Tiff Ward. Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

Notice to Readers and Advertisers

Upcoming Deadlines and Publishing Dates

ISSUE	DEADLINE	PUBLISHED
August, 2020	July 21	July 29, 2020
September, 2020	August 18	August 26, 2020
October, 2020	September 22	September 30, 2020
November, 2020	October 20	October 28, 2020
December, 2020	November 17	November 28, 2020
January, 2021	December 15	December 23, 2020

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Notes from our National Capital

In response to recent focus on abuse of women and events connected to the mass murders which started in Portapique on April 18-19, Lenore Zann, MP for Cumberland-Colchester send the following letter to Hon Bill Blair. The letter was sent in late May after our June edition was published.

Attention: Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety
re: recent mass-shooting in Cumberland-Colchester

Dear Minister Blair -

After much thought and many discussions with concerned citizens, as the Member of Parliament representing Cumberland-Colchester I am officially requesting an independent public inquiry into the recent mass shootings that took place here in our usually peaceful community of Northern Nova Scotia.

This past week I spoke personally about this to the Prime Minister to request his support and an independent public inquiry since the tragic event culminated in the murder of many of my constituents and is now considered "the largest mass-shooting in Canada's history".

There are issues of concern about the murderer's behaviour long before, leading up to, and during the horrendous events of April 18 and 19 when in a period of 13 hours 22 innocent people in several small rural communities were viciously murdered.

As M.P. for this region, it is of deep concern to me that no major

Notes from our Provincial Capital

There is no question that our communities, our province and the world have experienced a pandemic none of us could ever have anticipated. It forced us to take extra ordinary measures to protect our own health and the health of others. Let me thank each of you for your commitment to respecting the directives from Department of Public Health.

Both Premier McNeil and Dr. Strang have been consistent in their commitment to communicate on a regular basis with respect to the situation in Nova Scotia. There were many days that their messages were difficult. However, those directives were critical to containing the virus and limiting the community spread.

As the number of confirmed cases has declined over the last two weeks, Public Health have been able to ease some of those restrictions and have allowed us to open our social and economic

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

Current \$5.015-Million policing model broken

Hello from beautiful West Colchester on what I expect is going to be another hot sunny day, Saturday June 20.

Much has been said over the past sixty days about policing, what should and should not have happened on April 18 & 19. Much about: Bad Police, the murder of George Floyd, and defunding Police. These are all very serious questions and all need to be discussed and many questions to be answered.

I have been very vocal with respect to, what I believe is lack of policing or the inability of the current policing model, to properly protect the residents of Colchester County. I have stopped commenting publicly on this as I do not want it to take away from or be confused with other very important issues or challenges facing society today.

I want to take this opportunity to fully explain my concern and to advise as to my direction as we go forward. To begin, in this fiscal year Colchester County tax payers will pay the Provincial Justice Minister \$5,015,000 for RCMP protection, the Justice Minister will then pay the Federal Government under a "Provincial Policing agreement" signed by Feds and Province in 2012.

I was on Council in 2012 and never remember any reports or information received when this new agreement was put in Place. As a matter of fact, no one can lay their hands on a current Municipal Policing Agreement between Colchester and the Province. Much has been said (actually, much not said) recently about staffing levels. Quite frankly that is a number that is very hard to pin down.

Currently the \$5,015,000 pays for thirty two officers, of those, twenty four are assigned to 4 shifts of 6 officers per day. These 24 officers are those assigned to respond to calls and complete what I will term general investigative duties. They are what I view as the first responders, directly responsible for the safety of our residents.

public alert was issued to warn my constituents right across Cumberland-Colchester - and in fact beyond the area. Especially since just the previous weekend we all received loud Covid-19 "Stay-Home" alerts on cell phones, radio and TV.

Many of my constituents want answers.

To that purpose I also request that the inquiry includes a feminist analysis with regards to misogyny, domestic abuse and violence, femicide, and the connection between "private" domestic violence, and "public" violence in the form of mass-killing such as this one.

After speaking with Prime Minister Trudeau about this very important issue, I have faith in him to do what is best for N.S., for the nation, and for women and girls as an ally to "change the way it's always been" so that no other Canadians have to lose their lives - or their loved ones - in such a horrific manner.

In your capacity as Minister of Public Safety please confer with Nova Scotia Premier McNeil and launch an independent public inquiry.

Meanwhile, Red Flag Laws, among other gun-control measures, are needed more than ever to protect society: they lower the sui-



Lenore Zann

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activities to more contact and more interaction. That has been made possible because Nova Scotia respected Public Health Information and direction.

The return to our "normal" will be gradual. We cannot afford to destroy all the good that has been achieved through your sacrifices.

As your MLA, let me thank you for your co-operation. We are not through this yet, but we are on the right side of the curve. Remember, we are Better Together. Stay strong, stay healthy and stay safe.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North also is the Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance.



Karen Casey

This is where I believe we need to focus our attention.

I just want to quickly point out that there are other very important RCMP responsibilities that the Municipality does not pay for such as Major Crimes, policing of the Trans Canada Hwy, drugs and others. These are provided and paid for with your Federal and Provincial tax dollars. Also under the current agreement, which we cannot find, the \$5,015,000 that the Municipality pays is 70% of the cost, the Province pays the additional 30%.

However, another Municipality is currently undergoing a policing review and the new model is being changed to 90 / 10. I realize this may be a bit more detail than usual, but believe we need to fully understand the current situation, before we can determine what or how we can improve and supply better service.

Here is where I have the issue! We pay for 6 officers per shift to cover all of Colchester from Tatamagouche, to Upper Stewiacke to Lower Five Islands. The only office they have is Bible Hill Detachment, centralized, it is still a very long response time to our rural communities.

My main question, or my biggest concern is "How often do we have the full complement of 6 officers"? I am told that we pay for 6, however, minimum staffing is 4. Frankly, I believe that is the normal, 4 officers for all Colchester and I am not confident that the 4 are all in a position to respond in an emergency. They may be on desk duty with illness or other challenges common in life today.

I personally believe that this puts our residents as well as the officers themselves at risk. It is my opinion this current system is not working and we need to insist on changes. In life and in policing, things change.

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Tom Taggart

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