

The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

Pride Flag raised in Halifax

Pride Nova Scotia Network members, Premier Stephen McNeil and government officials were in attendance as the Pride flag was raised at Province House, in Halifax, June 25. The Pride flag has been raised in Halifax since 2010

Premier McNeil said, "This year, we are raising the progress Pride flag with stripes, which includes the trans community and Black, Indigenous and people of colour to demonstrate that the 2SLGBTIQ+ community stands in solidarity to fight against any form of discrimination, harassment and violence."

Bluenose Prepares for Summer Tour

The Bluenose II will sail into ports and harbours around the province this summer in a unique tour fit for the times dubbed "Sail Past Summer". "Ninety-nine years ago, Captain Angus Walters took up the mantle of the Bluenose, representing the hopes and pride of Nova Scotians," said Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister Leo Glavine.

"Today, the young crew aboard Bluenose II aims to again help Nova Scotians and Canadians remember their strength and resilience. We hope that seeing the ship sail along our seaboard coast will help communities remember that as with all storms, the sun will shine again", he continued.

Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador is scheduled to depart Lunenburg in late July and visit 26 communities in southwestern Nova Scotia, the South Shore, Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton. Bluenose II will also sail along parts of the coast of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island but will not dock in any ports. For Bluenose II's full 2020 schedule, visit <https://bluenose.novascotia.ca/schedule>

Stronger Vaping Regulations

Nova Scotia is taking action to protect youth and decrease youth vaping by strengthening regulations on the sale of vaping products. Nova Scotia will be the first province in Atlantic Canada to introduce a tax on vaping products and among the first in the country to require sales permits.

"We need to do everything we can to make sure vaping products do not appeal to younger Nova Scotians, particularly in light of concerning health consequences," says Karen Casey, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. "We have been concerned about growing vaping rates among our youth and we are responding to keep our youth safe. We continue to be a leader in this area."

The regulatory process to introduce sales permits was delayed due to COVID-19. Not all permits will be in place July 1, as expected. The province will use this time to continue to inform and educate retailers and wholesalers and is targeting Aug. 1 for permits to be in place. The Vaping Products Tax will begin Sept. 15.

The province has also banned the sale of flavoured vape products and passed legislation to assume regulatory authority over the nicotine content of tobacco, e-cigarettes and other products, protecting youth from potentially hazardous nicotine levels.

Retailers and wholesalers/manufacturers will be required to obtain a permit from Service Nova Scotia Internal Services by August 1. The permit fee is \$124.60 for a three-year period for retailers and \$124.60 annually for wholesalers/manufacturers

Vaping substances, with the exception of cannabis vaping substances will be taxed at the rate of \$0.50 per millilitre for liquids, \$0.50 per gram for solids. Vaping devices will be taxed at a rate of 20 per cent of their suggested retail selling price.

New Category for Emergency Services Providers Fund

The Emergency Services Provider Fund was increased to purchase equipment used to respond to an emergency. The program budget for 2020-21 is \$1 million, an increase of \$500,000. A new category was added to the program this year for emergency power for buildings. Applicants can choose standby generators, including electrical and wiring, fixed fuel supply tanks and posts to protect generators.

The annual program provides funding to emergency first responders, including volunteer fire departments, ground search and rescue organizations and hazardous material (HAZMAT) organizations. Applicants can purchase equipment from up to three of the seven categories. Program provides up to 75 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$20,000. Categories include personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus, communications, rescue equipment, miscellaneous firefighting equipment, hazardous material (HAZMAT) equipment, water supply and suppression equipment, emergency power for building. Applications will be accepted until July 13 and organizations can apply every three years.

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News from our Federal Capital

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cide rate, help prevent femicide, and mass-murders such as the one we Nova Scotians have just experienced.

Thirty years after the Polytechnique massacre in Montreal which, shockingly, did not ever receive a public inquiry, surely this time it is our duty to do the right thing and hold a substantive independent inquiry into this recent tragedy.

The people of Cumberland-Colchester do not want our peaceful, quiet, beautiful little beach communities of Portapique, Wentworth and Debert to be remembered for a violent mass-murder, but rather like Dunkirk which served as a turning point for the Allies in Europe.

There, armed forces and civilians came together in a show of solidarity to rescue their surviving comrades from the beach - snatching them from the jaws of death. And while many lives were

lost, thousands more were saved. This event turned the tides of the war and eventually became known as the "Miracle of Dunkirk".

As I've said many times, Nova Scotians cannot and will not let one angry man's acts of violence define us. We are still "casserole people", "tea and scones and blueberry jam people" and as visiting friends have always told me, "Nova Scotia is the friendliest place I've ever been".

I hope that soon we will be able say this was the event that turned the tides to bring about progressive, compassionate & positive change in Canada. It is time.

Like Dunkirk, let the pall of dark clouds over Portapique be turned into a beacon of hope and light to lead the way.

Lenore Zann is MP, Cumberland-Colchester, Vice-Chair, National Liberal Women's Caucus

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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Today's challenges are much different. National statistics released by Statistics Canada, for 2019, indicate contrary to popular belief there are more murders and violent crimes, more crimes against Children and violence against women in Rural Canada, per person than in the Urban Cores. There are many suggesting biker gangs and drug dealers, (not street level) are operating out of the rural communities for the very reason of lack of policing in the larger geographic regions. This is a very complicated problem.

We know RCMP staffing nationally is at a 13 year low according to former federal Public Safety Minister, Ralph Goodale. We know demands for a National Police force are growing, with terrorism demands, protection around nations Capitol. The RCMP are stretched thin and, in my opinion, cannot fill all positions. Their management is challenged on a daily basis to fill shifts. Once again, locally, staffing levels of six but minimum of 4. Is 4 the new norm and if so, are they endangering both our public and their officers. Then we have the challenge of what someone referred to as the "Trunk Slammers" officers brought in from another Community or another Province to fill minimum shift levels. When their shift or shifts are over they put their gear in the trunk, slam it shut and go back to their community 2 or 3 hours away.

While in our community, they can provide basic service, but do not know the roads or the community. I could speak for ever on this. However, I need to ask two questions. First, how many of you actually know the name or have even a casual relationship or contact with Police officers today? Did you use to know your Police officers by name, maybe meet them in a store or in the community?

That, in my opinion, is where we need to get back to. I have to end this rant with a few comments. No doubt this will take time, but we must start. The RCMP are a National Icon, the Red Surge is respected World Wide and in my opinion a great force that needs and DESERVES our RESPECT! Nationally they are not recruiting and training enough.

This must change! In Colchester County we need to reduce response times, like possibly having officers stationed in Tatamagouche, Debert and Brookfield. This will lead to more community policing and community relationships. We must insist that RCMP guarantee full and regular staffing, trunk slammers only occasionally. We must have what we pay for and if, it is determined we need more, we will have to pay for it. However as it stands now, if we need more, we might pay more, but doubtful if would receive. Sorry for this rant, but recent events have caused me to look at things, many things in a different light. Policing is a Core Municipal Responsibility and one we have always taken for granted.

I am on a mission to make this change! In closing, please enjoy

the summer. As the CoVid situation improves, get out and enjoy life more, but, please, do not let your guard down! I think CoVid has shown how lucky we are to live in these beautiful rural communities.

Take care.

Tom

Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In context of what Councillor Taggart has explained, I offer the following: During the past six weeks, in my home community of Maitland, but not involving me personally, there were two incidents involving domestic situations, but no injuries or violence. In the first case, there were four RCMP constables, each with a vehicle, parked near my property. Regarding the second incident there were two constables each with a vehicle. I talked to the officers during their on-site visit. All six of them were what Taggart names as "Trunk Slammers", working at the Elmsdale detachment, but were here for a one month stint from Ottawa.)



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