

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Province Removes Provincial Ferry Fees

The Nova Scotia government is permanently removing fees from all intra-provincial ferries to help make transportation more affordable and accessible for Nova Scotians, Premier Iain Rankin announced on June 19.

The provincial ferries operate daily year-round and most have a 24-hour service. There are seven provincial ferry services: La-Have, Lunenburg County; Country Harbour, Guysborough County; Little Narrows, Victoria County; Englishtown, Victoria County; Tancook Islands, Lunenburg County; Petit Passage, Digby County and Grand Passage, Digby County.

\$100,000 for two projects

The Government of Canada is investing \$100,000 in two new projects in Nova Scotia communities through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on behalf of the federal government. The program helps municipalities strengthen local infrastructure planning and decision-making by increasing local asset management capacity through investments in activities such as asset management training, technology and software enhancements and information sharing.

With funding from MAMP: The Municipality of the District of Guysborough will collect data to document its capital assets and their current state, current and future service needs, and determine which assets can or should be retired. It will also develop an asset management plan that will help to support and encourage long-term municipal capital planning and provide effective stewardship of capital assets to maximize benefits and levels of service. The Municipality of the District of Barrington will create an asset management plan and implement software, collect data, and assess the condition of its facilities assets, and develop a policy and procedure framework and knowledge building.

Seeking Members for Next Accessibility Standard Committee

Government is inviting Nova Scotians to help develop employment accessibility standards, the next phase in work toward the province's goal of making Nova Scotia accessible by 2030. Starting on June 15 interested Nova Scotians can apply to be part of the Employment Standard Development Committee. Half the committee membership must be persons with disabilities or representatives of organizations that represent persons with disabilities. Employment standards will support persons with disabilities to find, maintain and advance meaningful employment and help make workplaces and employment practices accessible to potential and current employees with disabilities. Standards may address areas such as recruitment and retention, employment supports and services and career planning and development. The application is available at <https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/employment-committee> The deadline for applications is July 14.

Nova Scotia Reopens to Atlantic Provinces

Nova Scotia lifted its border restrictions and opened to the rest of Atlantic Canada on June 23. This means that residents of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador can travel to Nova Scotia and will not be required to self-isolate for 14 days on entering the province.

In addition, conversations with the three other Atlantic premiers are ongoing, and the province is continuing to work on co-ordinating timing to open to the rest of Canada. Currently, Nova Scotia is on track to open to the rest of Canada by no later than July 14. Phase 2 of the provincial reopening plan began June 16, with more easing of restrictions, including increasing informal gathering limits outside to 25 people, and 10 people inside. Restaurants opened to patrons for indoor dining with a maximum of 10 people per table. All retail businesses opened to 50 per cent capacity with public health protocols being followed, and gyms and fitness facilities can also operate at 50 per cent capacity.

RCMP investigates break, enter and theft

Colchester County District RCMP is investigating a break, enter and theft of firearms from Bible Hill. Police responded to a break and enter at a home on Dunromin Avenue in Bible Hill. The break-in occurred between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. on June 9. The rear window of the garage was forced open to gain entry. The missing items include two rifles and a minibike. The rifles are described as black .22 caliber Winchester rifles, and are approximately 20 years old. The minibike is unique: it is a red 1974 Honda Z-50 cc with collapsible handle bars and a sticker on the gas tank showing RC51. Anyone with information is asked to contact Colchester County District RCMP at 902-896-5000. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or use the P3 Tips App.

Doctors Nova Scotia new President and President-Elect

Dr. Heather Johnson, of Bridgewater, N.S., was installed as Doctors Nova Scotia's President during the association's virtual annual conference on Saturday, June 12, 2021. Dr. Johnson has practised family medicine in Bridgewater for the past 20 years. She works in a collaborative practice with three other physicians and a nurse practitioner. Outside of the clinic she provides inpatient care at South Shore Regional Hospital and makes house calls to homebound patients. She graduated from medical school at Memorial University in Newfoundland in 1994. "I thoroughly enjoyed every rotation, and it was there that I first recognized family medicine as the foundation of health care." Also on Saturday, Dr. Leisha Hawker was endorsed as President-Elect. Dr. Hawker is a family physician practising in Halifax. Dr. Hawker's work with vulnerable populations will offer a valuable perspective on the association's equity, diversity and inclusion work. Her term as President will begin in June 2022.

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Silviculture work to proceed on 63 hectares in Debert

By Maurice Rees

Foresight Forestry will be permitted to carry out silviculture work on 63 hectares of municipal owned property in Debert and staff have been directed to prepare a listing of what other municipal lands might be suitable for silviculture work, with the goal of preparing an RFP for future silviculture work.

Gary Robar of Foresight Forestry, made a written request on June 2, 2021, to do some silviculture work on about 63 hectares of land owned by the Municipality in Debert. Robar had stated this tract of land was planted in the early 2000s following devastation from a hurricane Juan and now needs to be selectively thinned. This process is done to help create conditions suitable for continued quality growth of the remaining trees.

The work would take about 6 to 8 weeks and there is no financial value in the young trees that would be thinned. It is understood the trees removed would be left to decay and become nutrients for the remaining trees. The work valued at approxi-

mately \$80,000 will be performed at not cost to the municipality.

Staff input into the matter acknowledged there are a number of contractors like Mr. Robar who actively search for lands that need to be managed and obtained legal opinion the matter could be handled without an RFP because no money is exchanging hands.

Costs for the 6-8 week project will be handled through the Provincially funded Association of Sustainable Forestry (ASF), provides funding through a rate system (based on number of trees per hectare), which is between \$400/\$1000 per hectare. This funding is then used by silviculture contractors to cover expenses for GIS work, lay out work on the ground and for hiring of a crew to perform the work.

Once their research work is completed staff will prepare an RFP for a long term forest management plan for Municipally owned lands and report back to council for final approval.

Repaving Huge Cost – How To Pay?

Continued from page 1

agreement with the municipalities. The annual provincial amount was originally was \$2-Million, but was upped to \$10-Million, with a one-time investment in 2020 to be dispersed across the province.

Colchester currently budgets \$100,000 per year for maintenance of its roads, which is funded via the general tax rate. Council has passed the matter back to staff, with specific guidelines to come back to council with a repaving plan.

The range of costs for vehicle repairs has been referenced earlier in this article and is the theme of an additional story elsewhere in this issue. The data obtained from eight auto repair shops contacted for the special story indicates repair costs range for \$350 to \$2,500.

Based on repaving cost information prepared by Colchester's Department of Public Works, the following annual tax bill increase would apply to all residential properties based on \$300,000 assessment. These costs, on a 20 year rotation, assume the province will pay 50% of the repaving of the 110 Km of J-class roads throughout the municipality.

- District 1:** Bible Hill, \$21.00 per \$100,000 and \$63.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.
- District 2:** Truro Heights, \$9.00 per \$100,000 and \$27.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.
- District 3:** Brookfield, \$14.00 per \$100,000 and \$42.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.
- District 4:** Stewiacke East, \$1.00 per \$100,000 and \$3.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

District 5: Salmon River, \$22.00 per \$100,000 and \$66.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

District 6: Valley, \$22.00 per \$100,000 and \$66.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

District 7: Tatamagouche, \$5.00 per \$100,000 and \$15.00 if property assessed for \$300,000

District 8: North River, \$10.00 per \$100,000 and \$30.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

District 9: Debert, \$15.00 per \$100,000 and \$45.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

District 10: West Colchester,

\$7.00 per \$100,000 and \$21.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

District 11, Bible Hill, \$16.00 per \$100,000 and \$48.00 if property assessed for \$300,000.

A spreadsheet, prepared by Department of Public Works is published adjacent to this article. The shoreline Journal added the amount of property tax payable each year based on 15 year and 20 year rotation. The number shown is based on \$100,000 property assessment. (If your property is assessed at \$200,000, double the figure shown).

The spreadsheet shows, by electoral district, the total assessment; length of J-class

Roads; Mil rate - tax rate per \$100,000 assessment, and additional amount to your tax bill for every \$100,000 assessment. These rates are shown for 15 year and 20 year rotation. The column on the far right indicates the amount added to your property taxes per \$100,000 assessment and is calculated after the province (NSTIR) paid 50% of the repaving costs.

The far right column in this chart shows the amount of tax for all residential properties within that electoral district. The cost shown is the annual amount which would be calculated based on property tax assessment of \$100,000.

See also 'Parts Problem' on page 16

District	Community	Assessment (Million \$)	Length (km)	15 Year Rotation		20 Year Rotation		Yrly Tax Assessment
				\$/year* \$ per \$100	Area Rate \$/year*	\$/year* \$ per \$100	Area Rate \$/year*	
1	Bible Hill	\$172.90	11.1	\$48,070	\$0.028	\$36,052	\$ 0.021	\$21.00
2	Truro Heights	\$369.20	10.4	\$45,028	\$0.012	\$33,771	\$ 0.009	\$9.00
3	Brookfield	\$241.50	10.3	\$44,451	\$0.018	\$33,339	\$ 0.014	\$14.00
4	Stewiacke E	\$183.10	0.4	\$1,863	\$0.001	\$1,398	\$ 0.001	\$1.00
5	Salmon River	\$170.70	11.8	\$51,181	\$0.030	\$38,386	\$ 0.022	\$22.00
6	Valley	\$289.00	19.6	\$84,860	\$0.029	\$63,645	\$ 0.022	\$22.00
7	Tatamagouche	\$287.30	4.4	\$18,984	\$0.007	\$14,238	\$ 0.005	\$5.00
8	N. River	\$347.80	10.7	\$46,562	\$0.013	\$34,921	\$ 0.010	\$10.00
9	Debert	\$267.00	12.7	\$54,882	\$0.021	\$41,161	\$ 0.015	\$15.00
10	W Colchester	\$259.00	5.9	\$25,653	\$0.010	\$19,240	\$ 0.007	\$7.00
11	Bible Hill	\$260.60	13	\$56,533	\$0.022	\$42,400	\$ 0.016	\$16.00

(*) 50% of overall paving costs

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