

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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\$6,733,024.50 raised at 38th annual IWK Telethon for Children on CTV

The generosity of Maritimers was on full display during the IWK Telethon for Children on CTV, pledging a record-breaking \$6,733,024.50 in support of the IWK - the most funds raised in the Telethon's 38-year history.

The IWK Telethon is the IWK's largest annual fundraiser and supports the ongoing urgent priorities at the IWK including equipment, education, research and innovation. This year, donors to the Telethon helped purchase many essential pieces of equipment, including transport chairs for the Emergency Department. A Transport Chair is a wheelchair that is much sturdier and more rugged than a traditional wheelchair. It is also easy to steer and maneuver and is more comfortable for patients than a standard wheelchair as it has a padded seat and back rest. These chairs offer foot and leg rests and include an integrated IV pole and oxygen tank holder for patients who may require them.

Donations to the IWK Foundation can be made by calling 1-800-595-2266 or visiting www.iwkfoundation.org.

Action for Health Data Now Publicly Available

Nova Scotians will now have access to important, regularly updated healthcare data. The Action for Health website now includes measures so Nova Scotians can understand how the Province is tracking and measuring progress on improving the system for patients and healthcare professionals.

The indicators are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/actionforhealth>. Some, such as emergency department visits and hospital occupancy percentages, will be updated daily. Others will be updated regularly as the data becomes available.

Information on the website will include: recruitment numbers for family doctors, nurse practitioners and registered nurses; the percentage of Nova Scotians seeking a primary care provider through the Need a Family Practice registry; waitlists for home care and admissions into long-term care; the percentage of hospital admissions for people whose complex needs could have been better addressed with primary healthcare; patients' experience with hospitals; employee satisfaction levels; ambulance offload times; emergency department visits and hospital admissions, discharges and surgeries and hospital occupancy percentages and trends over time.

Actions taken to improve healthcare

The provincial government has undertaken several initiatives to improve healthcare, which includes: hiring more than 350 registered nurses and licenced practical nurses at Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health, starting between January and September 2022; recruiting 160 new physicians between April 2021 and March 2022; expanding opportunities for licenced practical nurses to become registered nurses; expanding VirtualCareNS to give people access to primary care online; launching a recruitment campaign for healthcare workers; reducing red tape for physicians; investing \$57 million to attract, hire and train more continuing care assistants, including offering free tuition for students, and opening beds more quickly for seniors.

Other initiatives include: increasing continuing care assistants' wages in the publicly funded continuing care sector by up to 23 per cent; setting up a paramedic working group to develop shared solutions; implementing the direct to triage policy across the province, which will allow paramedics to spend less time waiting in hospital with low-risk patients and more time available to respond to emergencies; creating the Health Equity Partnership table including the Province, Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health; its first meeting will be held in July, with a focus on developing a health equity framework, metrics and indicators; opening a new recovery support centre in Dartmouth for people seeking help with substance use or gambling and opening the province's first mental health acute day hospital at the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax.



Planning Advisory Committee Reports to Council

Laurie Sandeson, Chair, The Planning Advisory Committee of the Municipality of Colchester reported to council on June 23, that on June 8th it held a meeting to discuss the following items:

1) The Committee reviewed an application request for rezoning by Justin Gloade so he can build a single unit dwelling on a vacant lot on Cedar Drive in Salmon River. Pam Macintosh provided an overview of the proposal telling the Committee it will be a 3 bedroom house, built on slab. She noted Mr. Gloade's request has met all the requirements in this regard and added other approval agencies have reviewed the application and have not raised any concerns with the proposal. In conclusion, Ms. Macintosh recommended the application be approved.

The Committee recommend that Council approve Justin Gloade's rezoning request from C-1 to R-2C to build a single unit dwelling on Cedar Drive.

2) The Committee received a presentation by Paul Smith about the Wind Turbine Bylaw review. Mr. Smith said Council directed the PAC to review the Bylaw in light of mounting opposition to several large wind turbine projects proposed in Colchester. He provided an overview of the current document including background on how the bylaw emerged, its development and review in 2013 as well as primary components. Mr. Smith told the Committee that Council placed a moratorium on new wind turbine projects in late January 2022 for a six-month period (extendable to an additional six months) until the PAC had

an opportunity to review the document and offer any recommended changes. Mr. Smith also spoke about the application of the Wind Turbine Bylaw noting that it affects all properties throughout Colchester and the MGA requires reasonable accommodation for such uses.

He referenced a memo prepared for the Committee concerning the Bylaw review process, the key issues and proposed approaches to public engagement. He said Council confirmed the areas they wished the PAC to explore

which include the adequacy of setback distances, decommissioning requirements and maximum noise levels as well as whether turbine height should be regulated. He spoke about the need for a well-rounded public engagement program and that components of this would possibly comprise a community survey, open houses and stakeholder presentations. The Committee agreed with the approach and staff are preparing a draft survey for distribution for review. These engagement opportuni-

ties will happen over the summer into early fall.

There was much discussion among committee members on the key issues as well as on several other topics. The Committee agreed to the proposed timeline and to proceed with the 3 consultation approaches.

On a motion by Councilors Sandeson / Johnson it was requested to extend period for additional six months, until end of February/23. The motion was approved by council.

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The Shoreline Journal

Deadline for the August issue is July 19

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JD MacLean & ASSOCIATES jmaclean@eastlink.ca
128 Oakwood Drive

Print Layout/Correction Audio - Video Production Truro, NS B6L 1N4 902-893-3466

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