

Our Kitchen Korner

Thankfully no "Heat Dome" here

Finally, we got a week of nice weather. The type we have been urging to come our way for ages. The leaves are out, can almost hear the grass grow, and gardeners are in their glory. Their only lament is they are later than desired getting seeds in the ground, and transplants forming neat rows.

But as much as we express dismay of the lateness of fine weather, remember a few years ago. We worked like beavers gardening, only to have a June "killer" frost. Many had to start over, or replant a large portion of the garden.

As much as we enjoyed a week of normal weather, we're lucky not to have been part of the "heat dome" that has put over 40-Million USA residents in danger. The other bad news is wild fires have started about two months earlier than normal, consuming millions of acres across several western and southern states.

If that wasn't enough there are warnings of shortages or extremely high prices as field crops for produce - vegetable or fruits are being plowed under, because extreme high heat and dry weather causing a shortage of water for irrigation purposes. It was reported on CNN some cities are already making plan to ration water and in some cases banning lawn watering and car washing.

We often complain about Nova Scotia weather, but if we hang around for an hour it is liable to change. As much as I would not want to live state-side, it is sad to see in mid-June temperatures reaching 100+ degrees and lingering for days and setting new records.

I suspect once the calendar changes over to July, we will be sweltering. I predict a streak of extremely hot weather, extremely dry and we'll be wishing for at least one day overcast and wet.

Back to the weather at hand. One thing that has happened with all this cool, wet weather. Strawberries are a few days late, but growers have been changing their technologies and choosing some earlier and later breeds, which will extend the season. I hope, strawberry producers will not face the same situation as about five years ago, when they could not harvest enough berries to supply the grocery chains for a period upwards of a week.

Look out for some extremely hot weather, which will ripen berries faster than they can be picked. No need to search for a recipe for strawberries, you either have a family favourite, or you will use the one on the CERTO bottle. However, I did start preparing myself. I went through my supply of empty bottles and have set aside enough for at least two batches. I've even got enough bottles for a couple batches when it's pickling time.

To provide a change from strawberry short cake, thought you might like to whip up a batch of molasses cookies on one of those rainy days, when using the oven will help get rid of that early morning dampness. When you are looking for something to do, try your hand at "My Grandma's Molasses Cookies".

My Grandma's Molasses Cookies

*½ cup shortening • ½ cup brown sugar • 1 egg
½ cup molasses • ¼ cup warm water • 1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda • ½ tsp salt • 1 tsp ginger
½ tsp nutmeg • 2 cups flour • ½ cup raisins*

Cream together shortening and brown sugar. Add egg. Measure molasses and warm water together and add to the mixture. Add dry ingredients and mix well.

Drop by spoon onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 over on middle rack for up to 15 minutes.

Surely someone has some great new BBQ recipes. I'm looking for a suggestion of an entire family meal is done on the Barbeque. If you have a favourite family recipe and would like it published in the August issue, please send on or before July 15th. send to:

*The Shoreline Journal, Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0
Fax: 902-647-2194 or email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com*



For more information contact us at:
The Shoreline Journal, Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0
Ph: 902-647-2968, Cell: 902-890-9850
Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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Notes from our National Capital
Dr Stephen Ellis column for July is not available at press time.

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at:
902-895-2683, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca**



Stephen Ellis

Notes from our Provincial Capital
Well-equipped rescue boat for Five Islands secured

I would like to begin this month by Congratulating the Debert Fire Brigade. On June 11, I was fortunate to be invited to their Banquet to celebrate 50 years of serving their community. It was wonderful to see a full house of Volunteer firefighters and listen as they read excerpts from minutes of meetings from the founding meeting thru to present time. A reminder of how the roles of the Volunteers have changed the cost of equipment, the training and the very necessary safety requirements. The very most notable takeaway was as they read the minutes of fifty years to recognize that Generations of families have supported their Community. Volunteer Fire Brigades are the absolute backbone of our rural Communities. They are always there in case of emergency, or community tragedy of any type. They are often a place of camaraderie that al-

lows for community spirit and pride to grow. As I sat and looked out over the membership of men and women, young and less young, I will say that the Community of Debert is in great shape and should be very PROUD and SUPPORTIVE of their Brigade. Dr Robert Strang, who as you are all aware has a very busy schedule and I can tell you accepts very few speaking engagements was in attendance. In recognition of his Leadership over the past 2 years he was made an Honoury member of the Debert Fire Brigade.

While on the subject of Fire Brigades, I was able to secure funding for a proper and well-equipped rescue boat for Five Islands.



Tom Taggart

Notes from our Provincial Capital

Improved play area for students

Improved play area for students

I was pleased to be part of the team that thanks to an investment by the Houston Government students at Harmony Heights Elementary, Salmon River will soon have access to an improved play area thanks to an investment by the Houston government. Harmony Heights Elementary School will receive a total of \$10,000 to upgrade and enhance its playground.

During the announcement, I said, "Investing into play makes for happier, healthier children. I'm proud to support an initiative that will help our youth continue with our tradition of healthy, active living."

This local investment is one of 47 sites across the province benefiting from \$1.7 million through the Recreational Facility Development Grant program.

The Recreational Facility Development Grant program helps community groups, municipalities and other not-for-profit organizations develop and improve facilities to increase public participation in sport and physical recreation.

A ribbon cutting was done this past Friday, June 17, to mark the \$34 million investment Agropur announced for its plant in the Truro Industrial Park. The company will be hiring new employees and the commitment demonstrates Agropur's ambition to solidify its presence and pursue other business development in our region. These renovations are expected to provide a variety of economic spinoffs in the region and Truro area.



Dave Ritcey

Notes from our Municipal Council - District 10

My first time on an airplane

I was fortunate to be able to travel to Regina at the beginning of June for the annual Federation of Canadian Municipality conference. Believe it or not this was my first time on an airplane!!! This conference is designed to bring municipal delegates and their staff together to network and learn. This was the first in person FCM since COVID appeared in Canada. The conference itself was amazing, I learned so much and had the opportunity to meet many like minded individuals who are doing great work within their communities. It was fascinating to learn that nearly all of the municipalities across Canada are dealing with many of the same issues as we are here in Colchester County. The keynote speakers brought hot topics to the table and truly ignited a fire among us to keep pushing forward with issues like housing, climate change and inclusivity.

On June 13th some of our councillors took a tour of the Bible

Hill RCMP Detachment. The Emergency Response Team provided us with a brief overview of their systems and some of their processes. It is important to know they are always evolving and changing the methods in which they do things to be more efficient.

On June 9th council had a healthy discussion regarding a new by law that is being developed to ensure public safety by requiring civic numbers be displayed at all addresses. You can check out the meeting minutes at www.Colchester.ca It is extremely important that emergency personnel can find you when there is an emergency.

As always, I look forward to speaking with any of the constituents in district 10.

Victoria Lomond is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10 and can be reached at: 902-890-1493, or vломond@colchester.ca



Victoria Lomond

ners also should be recognized for their ongoing support of a firefighter, especially in those early/late pagers going off.

We were honoured to have Dr. Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health join in the celebrations and was awarded honorary membership to the brigade.

I would like to speak on what could have been a very serious issue the weekend of June 11th/12th on the airport runway between a glider tow plane and an ATV. I know many people enjoy all the trails in Debert, myself included but we need to be very cautious and aware of our surroundings, especially in this area



Marie Benoit

continued on page 6

Notes from our Municipal Council - District 9

Dr Strang given honorary membership in Debert Fire Brigade

Good morning,

It is great to see the nice weather coming out and the flowers in full bloom! It seems like there are a lot more gardens being planted this year, I assume the rising costs of food and fuel has a bit to do with that but will be nice to harvest your vegetables for your families.

June 11th, I was invited to take part in a 50th-anniversary celebration for the Debert Fire Brigade. These selfless and dedicated members train every week while keeping their community safe. While some were awarded special certificates, awards, and pins over the last 2 years due to covid they are all heroes in our books. Also, important to add as did they that evening their spouses/part-

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