

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Changes to Down Payment Assistance Program

The Province is making changes to the Down Payment Assistance Program so that more Nova Scotians have an opportunity to buy their first home. The program provides eligible homebuyers with an interest-free repayable loan of up to five per cent of the purchase price of their first home. The most significant change to the program is an eligibility increase to the total maximum market value as follows: Halifax Regional Municipality: \$500,000 (up from \$300,000); Northern and eastern regions (Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough and Cape Breton) and Yarmouth region: \$300,000 (up from \$200,000) and Annapolis Valley/South Shore: \$375,000 (up from \$200,000). Other changes to the program include: Increasing the total household income eligibility to \$145,000 across the province, up from \$75,000 and removing the sliding scale to provide five per cent down payment to all applicants. Under these changes, the maximum down payment interest-free loan will be \$25,000, repayable over 10 years. Repayment starts one month after the loan is issued.

Buzzworthy Helps Blueberry Growers 'Bee' Successful

The government is investing an additional \$100,000 in the Blueberry Pollination Expansion Program to support blueberry growers who keep bees to pollinate their crops. Blueberry growers may apply for funding to expand the number of hives they keep or purchase equipment to improve efficiency in their bee operations. The program is one of 14 Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs now accepting applications for 2022. The partnership is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared initiative that supports farmers and agri-businesses. In Nova Scotia, the annual investment is \$7.4 million. This is the second year for the Blueberry Pollination Expansion Program, and it now has a budget of \$350,000. Successful applicants are eligible for up to \$100 per hive to cover beehive expenses and up to \$50,000 for efficiency improvements between April 1 and December 31. Eligible applicants must generate an annual eligible bee and/or blueberry-related gross commodity income of \$30,000, be registered under the Bee Industry Act and be a member in good standing of the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association. Nova Scotia has about 700 blueberry farms. Nova Scotia blueberry growers sold more than 22 million kilograms (49 million pounds) of blueberries in 2021, generating revenue of \$39.2 million.

Schools Celebrate First Black Excellence Day

Nova Scotia students, teachers and school staff marked their first Black Excellence Day on June 17. Students, teachers, and school staff were encouraged to wear black t-shirts and host school events that honour and recognize Black excellence. The day was held to recognize and celebrate Black student achievements, stories, art, innovations, and people and communities. Nova Scotia's Inclusive Education Policy supports the success of African Nova Scotian/Black students and ensures a high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive and equitable education that advances well-being and achievement.

Government Covers School Milk Price Increase

Amid rising food costs, the government will cover a planned price increase in the School Milk Program to ensure milk stays affordable for families when students return to classrooms in September. The Natural Products Marketing Council, a sector-led adjudicative board, sets the price of school milk. There was a price increase scheduled for September 1, but the government has agreed to cover that cost so families don't have to. That means the price of a 250-millilitre carton of milk at school will remain at 40 cents. The cost of covering this increase is estimated to be about \$72,000. This is in addition to current costs, which have ranged between \$130,000 and \$230,000 per full school year. These costs were lower during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years due to pandemic-related school closures. The School Milk Program is cost shared between the Department of Agriculture and dairy producers and processors. Since 1974, the program has provided milk at a reduced price to students in grades primary to 12 at participating public schools.

Additional Resources: News release - Province Invests in Student Health and Well-being, Covers School Milk Price Increase: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release?id=20211213004>

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News from our Provincial Council

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Recognizing the ever-increasing number of tourists and strangers traveling and enjoying our piece of the Bay of Fundy and the dangerous tides in and around the Islands, the Brigade has been asking for some time. I am very pleased to secure the funding for the boat, trailer, all the very best safety equipment and training.

Also this month I attended Irving Shipbuilding with the Premier and caucus for the announcement of the Youth Apprenticeship program. Under this program, any Nova Scotian under 30 years old working as an apprentice in over 70 different trades ranging from Welding, to Mechanic, to Hairdressing or Cooking will not pay any Provincial income tax on the first \$50,000 of income annually. It is expected that this will entice many of our youth to remain in Nova Scotia and also attract those much needed trades' people to Nova Scotia. I have been told that at times it is difficult to navigate the bureaucracy of getting in this program. If that happens, please contact my office. I will advocate and work with you every step of the way. That is my job!

On Monday June 27 and Tuesday June 28 there will be a marketing

News from our Provincial Capital

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A record number of doctors chose to come live and work in Nova Scotia last year. More than 160 physicians were recruited and started working across the province between April 2021 and March 2022.

The previous three years saw recruitment totals of 130, 128 and 127 physicians, respectively. Of the 163 doctors recruited last year, 75 are family doctors and 88 are specialists. They are working in communities across Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotians will now have access to important, regularly updated healthcare data now that Action for Health Data Now Publicly Available. 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.

This was a key commitment made in April when the Action for Health strategic plan was launched.

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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and time of year.

Many signs have been put back in place in the airport advising caution as tow planes may have 200ft ropes attached when landing as what happened in this case. Please be careful!

On June 25th, I was invited by a very lovely lady named Rilla MacDougall to a "Meet your neighbour's BBQ" on Board Landing Rd in Onslow.

It was very nice to see these types of gatherings happening again, also to see how close they are and there to help each other out when needed. I enjoyed meeting some of you in person, and the treats were delicious. Thank you!

I would like to shout out to a new business that moved her family to Debert in January of this year. Precious Art Works & Prints and Doggie Daycare.

They were in North River but as her business grew she was unable to expand in her home it was time to look elsewhere.

They purchased an old, vandalized, empty warehouse on Dakota Rd., in Debert's Business Park in June of 2021 and spent the summer cleaning it out and building it into a doggie daycare and an apartment for them. Such a transformation! She also has an in-house gift shop with a wide variety of items from jewelry to glassware to home décor

team, hired by the Province, at the Masstown Market to begin the kickoff, and gathering information that will help to form the Nova Scotia Loyal Program. Economic Development Minister Susan Corium-Greek will attend on Tuesday to officially kick off this program. Part of the details are being worked out, with respect to how this program can be most efficiently and effectively delivered (reason for the marketing team at Masstown) How to ensure and make it as seamless as possible for the consumer as well ensure that this program is available to local food producers big and small, from Farm gate to Farm Markets to those supplying local products to the large chain stores. In the end it is the expectation that under these Nova Scotia Loyal Program consumers will receive 10% rebate from the Government when they buy product from Nova Scotia.

In Closing summer is here and schools are closing for summer. I wish to congratulate all of those in the graduation classes. You are our future! You have the world at your feet! Enjoy you success, take time to have fun and please stay safe!

Tom Taggart, MLA, Colchester North can be reached at: (0) 902-641-2335 or tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

"Our healthcare system is complex, and pressure in one part of the system impacts all the others," said Health and Wellness Minister Michelle Thompson. "Change won't happen overnight. But by sharing this information now, we are holding ourselves accountable to make sure change happens and the system improves in the areas most important to Nova Scotians."

The Town of Truro will receive \$10,429 towards their branding & beautification project on Robie Street and the Municipality of Colchester will receive \$25,000 for the Fundy Discovery Site picnic- sun shelter area through the province's Beautification and Streetscaping Program. #HubNovaScotia #Truro #Colchester.

Although not in my constituency, I feel compelled to mention that the Municipality of Colchester Campbell's Marina & Main Street Beautification \$25,000 as this project will help make other areas of Colchester a bit more beautiful.

Dave Ritcey, MLA, Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River can be reached at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

and pet-related items such as pet tags, collars/leashes and homemade toys.

In October 2021 they started to bring in some pups that were ok with some construction still happening and then officially opened in January 2022. The owner Lori Anne MacDonald has many accomplishments and diplomas under her belt such as graduating from Dalhousie with an animal Science Technician and Animal Health Technician Diploma.

Doggie daycare is only about half full for capacity now if you need somewhere for your dogs to be well cared for giving her a call at (902) 957-1656, or you can like her page on Facebook. She is located at 6 John Snook Blvd off Dakota Rd.

One last thing before I sign off, I have many asking about Debert days this year, unfortunately, we decided in April I believe or just after restrictions lifted to wait one more year just to see how it went as you can imagine all the planning involved and to have to cancel last minute, which I can understand can happen at any point with this unpredictable virus but we hope to start back up next year with an amazing event for 2023!!

Heading to the beach this afternoon with my family as the humidity will be quite high, take care stay safe and please be kind neighbours

Marie Benoit is Colchester Councillor for District 9 and can be reached at 902-324-9011 or mbenoit@colchester.ca

Tatamagouche Clothing Bank – Tax Exemption

By Maurice Rees

If you want to create intense discussion at Colchester Council, bring a matter forward seeking retroactive rebate or cancelling past taxes. That is what has happened concerning the Tatamagouche Clothing Bank.

For over 30 years, the bank has operated on land leased from Sobey's and never received a property tax bill. In January of 2020, Council updated its tax exemption records for several

properties. During this review it was determined that the Colchester Food Bank was leasing property from Sobey's Leased Properties. The property was then used by the Tatamagouche Clothing Bank for their operations.

Because the property was owned by a private company, the property was not eligible under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) for tax exemption.

The Clothing Bank was able

to provide evidence to PVSC and in the 2022 the property was reassessed to the Colchester Food Bank, which is a not-for-profit organization. Where the property is now assessed to the not for profit, it is again eligible for tax exemption with Colchester under the By-law and the MGA.

Property is assessed for \$58,200 of commercial assessment. This is equal to \$1,327 per year as an eligible tax exemption. Current taxes owed are

\$2,667.40 for fiscal year 2021 and 2022.

After considerable discussion, Councillor Gregory placed the following motion on the floor:

"That Council approves that the Tatamagouche Clothing Bank be added to the Tax Exemption By-law Property List for the property located at 27 Blair Avenue (assessment acct #05368383), and grant retroactive tax account adjustment for 2021 and 2022 balances owed."

Motion was passed by council.

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