



This 1917 photo, looking toward Pier 8, shows the destruction after the Halifax Explosion, which killed over 2,000 Halifax residents more than the number of Nova Scotians killed during World War I. (Submitted)

## 100<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Halifax Explosion

By Janet Maybee

December 6 of this year marks the hundredth anniversary of a tragic explosion that destroyed much of Halifax, Dartmouth and Turtle Grove. At least 2000 civilians were killed, more than all the Nova Scotian soldiers who died overseas during World War One. There are many commemorative events planned in the city but it is time to recognize the incredible kindness, generosity and sacrifice of people from all parts of Colchester County at that challenging time.

It seems a surprise to many that the first relief train filled with medical professionals and firemen came from Truro within an hour of the blast, not from Boston. Another little known fact is that within a few hours three contingency hospitals were prepared (there was no actual hospital here at that time) equipped and staffed by local residents and supported through donations of clothing, food, bedding and money from communities from Five Islands to Stewiacke to Earlton and more. Truro set up the only Relief Committee outside Halifax and cared for more than 400 wounded or homeless refugees who began to arrive that same afternoon.

Over the next few weeks we'll share some of the stories from this amazing time, from the treasure trove of letters, lists, account books and other documents in the Colchester

Historeum. These are extremely valuable as the Halifax Relief Commission's records were all destroyed when it ended its work. So the Historeum's collection is going to be of great value to researchers. And moreover this material should engender a great deal of pride in the accomplishments of our earlier citizens, stories worth celebrating especially in this anniversary year.

Please dig out family albums, and question your elders and neighbours to collect stories, photos and artifacts that could be shared in a special installation at the Colchester Historeum in the fall. There are some very moving stories and images in this collection but it is vital to include more from all parts of the county.

**(NOTE: Janet Maybee will author a monthly column to be published for the remainder of the year. The Shoreline Journal is cooperating and working with Janet Maybee to help collect additional artifacts and stories, which still linger in family files and attics throughout Colchester County. The Shoreline Journal will compile additional and existing data into a feature to be published at the end of November. As you discover items, please contact: Maurice Rees, 902-647-2968 or email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com Other options for info or contact: call the Historeum at 902-895-6284 or email: janet.a.maybee@gmail.com)**



In 1917 trains were the most important mode of transportation. Within an hour of the explosion a train filled with volunteers and medical professionals was on its way to Halifax. The train pictured above is coming from Halifax following the explosion. It is definitely not the first one to arrive, later that day, because that one had been close to the explosion and had its windows blown out. (Submitted)

## Peacekeepers Day at Veterans Memorial Park

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Gerry White, and the presentation of a tall metal yellow ribbon (the familiar Support Our Troops symbol) donated to the park by UN-NATO.

Peter Stoffer will speak about his experience at the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge; a longtime supporter of veterans in his many years as

MP, Stoffer now works with Trauma Healing Centre. Following the ceremony, everyone is welcome to join the peacekeepers, veterans and the Stadacona Band at a reception up the hill at West Colchester Consolidated School.

**Janet Maybee is public relations coordinator, Veterans Memorial Park**

## NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION



### Questions to Rebecca Taylor

**To ensure residents of the remote areas of Colchester North do not have to travel to Truro what would you do to ensure government services/offices are available close to their home community?**

I will work with community groups and fire departments to arrange regular opportunities for Colchester North residents to meet with me in their own communities. I am also committed to locating my main constituency office in Colchester North. I will make myself available to help constituents access government services, including working with federal and municipal partners on constituents' behalf.

**If you are elected what will you do to assist community groups develop initiatives to improve the economy of their community, including more accommodations, food outlets and related services, as the profile of the Bay of Fundy becomes more iconic as a destination for tourists?**

We will invest in rural infrastructure and roads, work with local economic development organizations, community groups, and businesses to help them develop wayfinding signage, tourism packages, and promotional materials.

**What will you do to raise the standard of living of Colchester North residents so less of them are living on or below the poverty line?**

We will raise the standard of living and cut taxes by increasing the basic personal exemption for the 500,000 Nova Scotians with incomes below \$75,000. Our Rebuild Nova Scotia Fund will create thousands of jobs rebuilding our province's roads, bridges, and community buildings.

What programs will you

**help implement to stop "out migration" resulting in youth and young families remaining in or being attracted to live, work and play in Colchester North?**

Lowering taxes for job creators and putting vocational training back in schools so students can choose to begin trades training earlier and graduate with a trades certificate.

A new film tax credit will revive our province's film industry, making Nova Scotia attractive to creative entrepreneurs again. We'll also make sure families have excellent access to health care and education. We'll hire more doctors and nurse practitioners, and direct \$20 million to classroom resources such as educational assistants.

**Realtors are adamant they have difficulty selling rural properties if high speed internet is not available. At the same time, the competitiveness of businesses and education of students is being hampered. Realizing Bell Aliant has FIBRE OP installed along Highway # 2 to government offices, highway garages and hospitals, what will you do to ensure Bell Aliant is forced to make FIBRE OP available to smaller local internet providers at an economical price?**

We're going to invest \$150 million of the Rebuild Nova Scotia Fund in a 10-year, multi-phase project to connect unserved or underserved households to high-speed internet in rural Nova Scotia. We'll work with federal government departments to equally cost-share rural internet infrastructure, and we'll begin connecting up to 4,300 Nova Scotians to new or improved high-speed internet beginning in the second year of a PC government. Our complete build will be implemented by 2027, with speed targets sufficient for streaming media, education and business applications, and the capacity to take advantage of improvements in technology and speeds

**What will you do to ensure the ecology and environmental assets of the Bay of Fundy is protected and the livelihood of local entrepreneurs, fishers and clambers is not impacted negatively?**

The success of Nova Scotia's fisheries and aquaculture industries are critical to the growth of the provincial economy. Supporting creative and innovative approaches in these traditional industries should be a priority. We will encourage environmentally and ecologically safe, sustainable economic growth in the industry. **With an aging population how will you help community groups develop programs to assist seniors to remain in their home for longer period of time?**

I'd like to help community groups develop asset-based community development programs that link seniors who need help (home repairs and seasonal maintenance) with young people who need work. Making connections like these will strengthen communities and help seniors remain in their homes. At the same time, I will work to make sure seniors in our community are connected to programs such as heating rebates, housing upgrades, and home care services. We will also increase funding for programs to help seniors repair and stay in their own homes by \$4.5 million.

For those who are unable to remain in their homes, our province has a responsibility to supply appropriate, licensed facilities for seniors so they can enjoy social time while receiving constant high-quality care. We will invest \$8.2 million each year in long-term care facilities, restoring cuts imposed by the McNeil Liberals. These cuts have diminished the daily quality of life for residents in care facilities. We will treat seniors with the respect and dignity they deserve and introduce the Seniors' Bill of Rights that keeps couples in care together and makes quality meals the law. We will freeze the Seniors' Pharmacare Program cost-share ratio so governments can't make seniors pay more than their fair share.

**If both parents are in the workforce would you help develop a program so "children care" or "after-school care" could be offered as an extension**

**of work already being done in the community at existing churches?**

We recognize the pressures on family related to childcare. We are open to discussing such a program to help alleviate the additional pressure parents face.

**Should branches of Royal Canadian Legion in Colchester North be set up to offer counseling and assistance to veterans and others suffering PTSD? If so, how would you help?**

This is an issue that is close to my heart. My brother is a war veteran who gave many years of his life to our military. Like many of our veterans, he struggles with severe PTSD. The close relationships between veterans makes peer support programs a very valuable part of treatment, along with professional mental health care. I could see a role for the Legion in partnership with other community organizations like the Canadian Mental Health Association and the medical community.

**In your own words, why are you the most qualified candidate to represent residents of Colchester North?**

It's time for dynamic energy and a fresh approach that challenges the status quo. We need someone who is passionate about making life better in Colchester North. I offer 20 years experience in leadership and innovation, and I have a real world perspective that comes from being a small business owner, working with community service organizations, and working as a public servant provincial government. I'm also active in community economic development and health advisory groups. We have been slowly sliding backward for too long. It's time to make a bold move forward.



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