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The impact of on-line shopping and how it is impacting local retailers across Canada is evident from recent Canada Post 2017 financial reports. Canada Post reported a 2017 profit before tax of \$74 million, largely due to unprecedented growth in its parcels business. Most of the Parcels revenue growth of \$393 million was from domestic shipments, which indicates the amount of on-line shopping. The Canada Post segment grew revenue to \$6.4 billion, an increase of 4.1 per cent over 2016.

A project will begin later this spring to renovate the south gardens of the Nova Scotia legislature. Enhanced accessibility will be an important component, with paving stones replacing gravel on the pathways and ramps added to improve accessibility to the park area. Paving stones will replace the current asphalt driveway on the Hollis Street side of the building. New benches will be installed in the area surrounding the statue of Joseph Howe, as well as planter boxes, flowering shrubbery and new sodding. The site's drainage system will be enhanced and the grade improved. The project calls for improved lighting to the Hollis Street side of Province House and the Joseph Howe statue, as well as more traditional lamp posts. Province House will remain open during the renovation. The project is expected to be complete in early September.

Nova Scotians will now get public alerts on their cell phones from the public emergency alerting system. The Alert Ready system allows emergency management officials to send out public alerts in times of emergency. Participants in the national system include private and public broadcasters, cell phone service providers and government organizations. The Emergency Management Office sends test alerts several times a year on TV and radio. Cell phones will now be part of the alert. The test begins with a loud alert sound, followed by a spoken message through television and radio and a message on cell phone screens. If a cell phone is switched off or on silent mode, there will be no sound but a message will be displayed and the phone may vibrate if it is in silent mode. The program is led by Pelmorex Weather Networks (Television) Inc. Information about cell phone compatibility is available at www.alertready.ca

Opus Fund Services (Canada) Limited, an independent and privately owned full-service fund administrator expanding its global footprint, is adding a new office in Halifax. The company has the potential to create up to a maximum of 30 jobs under the five-year payroll rebate agreement with NSBI. NSBI estimates the company could spend \$5,580,000 in salaries. The company would earn a rebate up to \$369,000 over five years, but would be eligible for a smaller rebate if it creates fewer than 30 jobs.

NSBI has signed a payroll rebate program with VistaCare Communications to create up to a maximum of 100 jobs under the five-year payroll rebate agreement. The company is a full-service provider and administrator of commercial communications and building security systems. With headquarters in Bedford, the company is expanding their Nova Scotia operations to support growth into new Canadian and U.S. markets. NSBI estimates the company could spend \$13,775,000 in salaries. VistaCare Communications would earn up to \$826,500 over five years with a smaller rebate if it creates fewer than 100 new jobs.

Nearly all provincial day-use parks and several camping parks opened on May 18. Reservations for camping sites can be made by phone, toll free, at 1-888-544-3434 or online at, <http://parks.novascotia.ca>. Camping parks had a successful 2017 season with a 13 per cent increase in bookings over the previous year. More than a million people visit Nova Scotia's provincial beaches and parks each year.

Nova Scotia will provide \$100,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to support New Brunswickers affected by the recent flooding of the St. John River.

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News from our Federal Capital

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the main transportation link between the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the rest of North America.

Other areas at risk are communities located near the coast or near tidal rivers. Farms are in jeopardy of having fields water logged and no longer useable. Roads and bridges will need to be raised or reinforced to deal with currents and tides not previously seen.

Last week the Governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Government of Canada announced an agreement to share in the cost of an engineering study to determine how to address this transportation issue. There are a number of proposals to deal with the rising sea levels at this location.

One idea is to rebuild the former Acadian dykes to new higher levels. Another is to raise the CN rail line and allow it to continue holding back the ocean. Another proposal I have read is to move the highway, the rail line and the power lines in land to higher

ground. I am sure that there are more ideas that will be considered as well.

Complicating the rising sea level challenge is the complexity of the problem. There are towns at the ends of the Isthmus that need to be protected; two National Historic Sites at risk; windmills; pipelines etc. Another aspect that makes the mission more challenging is that the rail line and the highway systems cannot be interrupted during repairs and upgrades.

The federal funding share came under the National Transportation Corridor Initiative Fund which is focused on transportation issues. As other sea level issues surface, additional sources of funding will need to be identified. In the meantime, time is of the essence in getting this vulnerable transportation link upgraded to a safe standard.

Bill Casey, MP represents Cumberland-Colchester in Ottawa.

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I reported on here. I expect this to be a very lively meeting. Many councillors, myself included, have spoken with their family doctors and received a much different view or version of the state of health care and the challenges they face. In discussions with my counterparts it is clear there is a tremendous amount of animosity between the doctors and this newly formed single health board.

It seems we all have a complaint, whether it is with Doctor recruitment, surgery waiting lists, emergency room closures, the list goes on. There is no question the cost of Health care is very alarming!! Also there are many opinions on what needs to be done to improve the system, many I am sure are valid.

There are, I am sure, many cases where we take advantage of or abuse, our supposed free health care!! There is enough blame to go around.

There are several reasons I have made these comments this morning. I wanted to tell about the possibility of council getting involved in Doctor recruitment, about the meeting with N S Health, but mostly so I could tell the following story.

Zylpha and I have friends we often visit in New Hampshire. A few weeks ago one of our friends had a heart attack. He received first rate care, had a stint placed in an artery and is doing fine. We went down to visit this past weekend. Great visit, all is well. However, our friend did not have health insurance. I asked about the cost? They were not sure. They still had not received the final bill, but expected it to cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. However, they were going to be able to make payments.

So, let's just keep that in mind when we are discussing the state of our health care. Yes we can and should be critical. Yes, we should expect Government leaders, both elected and the leadership at the Department of Health to do everything possible to reduce costs and gain efficiencies. Yes, we should be more aware of the costs as we visit our Doctors or Emergency Departments.

However we should NEVER lose sight of how good we really have it.

Tom

Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10.

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on weekend of May 12th to be very informative. The weekend sessions gave me an opportunity to network and learn from some very interesting people. Unfortunately, the timing of the meetings caused fellow councillor, Tom Taggart and myself to miss the Shoreline Journal's 8th Annual 90 & 90+ birthday party for area residents.

Springtime and coming out of the winter season brings two things, lots of dandelions and potholes. I've received a lot of complaints about the conditions of our highway network. I've passed

along the complaints to TIR. My apology for slow responses for area residents, but I have emailed TIR twice, but they are very slow to respond.

My daughter, Dallas celebrated her 15th Birthday this month. Happy Birthday. May you continue to be the beautiful responsible young lady that you are. Legion duties continue to take up a lot of time, but very rewarding. All in all, I am very happy to be your councillor.

Thank you, Bob Pash

Bob Pash is Colchester Councillor for District 9. He can be reached at 902-899-0271 or bpash@colchester.ca

Millbrook Part of 2020 North American INDIGENOUS GAMES

By Maurice Rees

Millbrook will be part of the 2020 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), which will be the largest multi-sporting event to be held in Nova Scotia. This also marks the first time the games will be hosted in Atlantic Canada. The May 3 announcement made in Montreal awarded the games to Halifax and Millbrook which won over competing

bids from Ottawa and Victoria.

"I am so excited about Halifax hosting NAIG in 2020, sharing our Mi'kmaw culture with athletes from across North America," said Mattea Bernard, an athlete from Millbrook. "I hope I will get the chance to compete during the games and this news will provide the motivation I need to get there."

The Government of Nova

Scotia has committed \$3.5 million to support the games. The event will take place over eight days, which will include more than 5,000 Indigenous participants from over 756 nations in 15 sporting events. Events will be held at various locations in Halifax Regional Municipality and in Millbrook.

The bid was prepared by the Mi'kmaw Sport Council of Nova Scotia with the sup-

port of Nova Scotia's 13 Mi'kmaw communities, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Halifax Regional Municipality, Discover Halifax, Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University, Sport Nova Scotia, the Halifax Stanfield International Airport and several community supporters.

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