

# Colchester Holds Tax Rates

By Maurice Rees

Even in a time of disarray, due to Co-Vid-19 pandemic, and many hours of discussion and planning, the County of Colchester was able to balance its 2020/21 budget and hold the rate without a tax rate increase over the 2019/20 fiscal year. The rates are \$0.885, residential and \$2.28 commercial per \$100 of assessed value. All quoted tax rates are for the base rate applicable to the entire municipality and does not include any local area rates.

Property owners will face increases only based on assessment increases, which is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). "We recognize that many of our residents and businesses may be struggling right now. We

worked hard to find ways to reduce spending without impacting our high standard of service, to ensure that we could keep our tax rates the same," said Colchester County Mayor, Christine Blair.

For years the county has claimed to have some of the lowest tax rates when compared to 21 other municipalities, or districts which make up the rural parts of Nova Scotia. The rates based on the 2019/2020 fiscal year did not include cities, towns or villages.

As the adjacent table shows Colchester's residential and commercial tax rates; \$0.885 per \$100 residential assessment placed 9th when compared with 21 other local govern-

ments. Lowest was District of Chester at \$0.705, and Digby the highest at \$1.30 per \$100 residential assessment. Adjacent Cumberland was 18th at \$1.19 base rate and County of Pictou was 5th at \$0.82.

In a province-wide analysis the chart shows Colchester's commercial rate for the fiscal year 2019/20, which ended on March 31, 2020, Colchester's commercial rate of \$2.28 per \$100 assessment was 18th out of 21 municipalities, while County of Pictou was 5th with a rate of \$1.82. County of Cumberland was in 21st position with a commercial rate of \$2.78.

Going forward both Colchester and Cumberland balanced their 2020/2021 budgets by holding the rates to last year's levels.

## 2019/20 NS Municipal Tax Rates

|                                       | RESIDENTIAL     | COMMERCIAL     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <i>Ranked by Residential Tax Rate</i> |                 |                |
| Chester                               | \$ 0.705        | \$ 1.53        |
| Guysborough                           | \$ 0.710        | \$ 2.68        |
| Richmond                              | \$ 0.800        | \$ 2.10        |
| Lunenburg                             | \$ 0.810        | \$ 1.96        |
| Pictou                                | \$ 0.810        | \$ 1.82        |
| East Hants                            | \$ 0.853        | \$ 2.60        |
| Kings                                 | \$ 0.853        | \$ 2.29        |
| Antigonish                            | \$ 0.880        | \$ 1.46        |
| <b>Colchester (9<sup>th</sup>)</b>    | <b>\$ 0.885</b> | <b>\$ 2.28</b> |
| St. Mary's                            | \$ 0.950        | \$ 2.26        |
| Annapolis                             | \$ 1.015        | \$ 1.80        |
| West Hants                            | \$ 1.032        | \$ 1.80        |
| Clare                                 | \$ 1.040        | \$ 2.07        |
| Barrington                            | \$ 1.050        | \$ 2.56        |
| Inverness                             | \$ 1.050        | \$ 1.91        |
| Argyle                                | \$ 1.090        | \$ 2.27        |
| Yarmouth                              | \$ 1.180        | \$ 2.17        |
| Cumberland                            | \$ 1.190        | \$ 2.78        |
| Victoria                              | \$ 1.220        | \$ 2.12        |
| Shelburne                             | \$ 1.260        | \$ 1.82        |
| Digby                                 | \$ 1.300        | \$ 1.85        |



In April issue we published a highway sign, which was installed incorrectly (also seen below). Since then we found this sign on the first turn of the street at the former Sears end of the Truro Mall. To properly obey the sign motorists must drive in the ditch to the right of the highway sign. (Rees Photo)

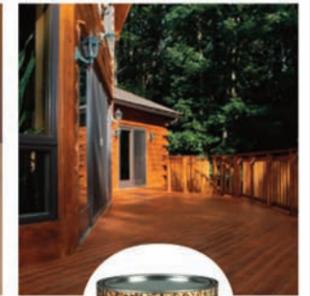


Charles Hepburn, East Folly Mountain Road, Debert won a one year subscription to the Shoreline Journal for being the first person to email the correct answer to what is wrong with the above photograph in the April issue. He replied, "The chevron on right in picture of trail signage should be reversed so slanted lines are pointing in towards the trail". To legally obey the right hand portion of the sign, a walker on the trail would have to go down into the ditch, walk around the sign, then get back onto the trail. There are additional instances of incorrect signage on the Cobequid Trail immediately past the entrances to Fundy Discovery Site, parallel to Highway 236. Another instance of incorrect sign installation on the street which goes behind Truro Mall, near the former Sears Store section (see above). (Rees Photo)



It's not hard to tell spring is coming. This photo taken on April 20th shows the housing accommodations Millen Farms built a few years ago to house immigrant workers on Highway #2, Glenholme / Great Village. All summer long the clothes lines are full of laundry. Millen Farms requested approval for 209 workers for the 2020 season. To date they have received 45 workers, who are "Self-Isolating". No word on the additional 160+ required for the season. (Rees Photo)

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