

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Highway 104 Twinning Project Update

The twinning project that will make Highway 104 safer for motorists and improve the efficiency of one of the province's most important transportation corridors is well underway. The section of highway between Sutherlands River, Pictou Co., and Antigonish is now an active construction zone for the next two and a half years with reduced passing opportunities and lower travel speeds. Since 2009, there have been 391 collisions, including 14 fatal collisions that have claimed 19 lives, on this untwinned portion of Highway 104. Earlier this month, westbound climbing lanes in the Telford area and eastbound lanes in the Broadway area were removed. This was necessary to facilitate the construction activities. Dexter Nova Alliance, led by local contractors Dexter Construction and Nova Construction, was awarded the contract to design, build, finance, operate and maintain this section of Highway 104 in May 2020. The project includes: 28 kilometres of new two-lane twinned highway; 10 kilometres of new four-lane twinned highway; two new interchanges and about 24 new bridges. Construction will be completed before the end of 2023. The total cost of the project is \$717.9 million, with the federal government contributing \$90 million under the National Trade Corridors Fund.

Migrant Worker Food Insecurity

On April 30th, the Migrant Worker Rights Working Group (MWRWG) in Nova Scotia sent an open letter to Premier Rankin, as well as other officials expressing concern over a lack of physical access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food for migrant workers while in their 14-day self-isolation period. The letter is based on regular accounts the group has been receiving from migrant workers. Approximately 2,000 migrant workers arrive in Nova Scotia to plant, harvest, and process agricultural crops and seafood products through Temporary Foreign Worker Programs (TFWPs) such as the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP). Approximately 50,000 to 60,000 migrant workers come to Canada to work in agricultural, food and fish processing each year.

Accommodation Operators Can Apply

Applications are now open for the Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program Part 2. The Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program will provide eligible tourism accommodation operators a one-time 50% rebate on the first six months of their commercial property taxes paid for 2021-2022. Operators who received payments under the first Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program, which provided a 25% rebate on the payment of 2020-21 commercial property taxes, will be eligible to apply again if they still own the business and will be contacted automatically. Businesses must meet the definition of a roofed accommodation as set out in the Tourist Accommodation Registration Act, be registered as a host under the act, have more than five rooms, not be in arrears of property taxes or property tax installment payments and have experienced a year-over-year revenue loss of at least 30 per cent from April 1 to Oct. 31, 2020. New operators who were not in business before March 30, 2020, may still be entitled to a rebate if they can demonstrate lower than 50% occupancy rate since opening their business. As municipalities issue property tax bills at different times, the program will remain open throughout the year.

Michele Saran Departs Tourism Nova Scotia

Effective Friday, April 30, Michele Saran completed her five-year contract as CEO of Tourism Nova Scotia and has chosen not to renew for another term. Darlene MacDonald, who currently holds the position of Director of Sector Development has been appointed Acting CEO while the board determines next steps around CEO recruitment. Darlene has more than 25 years of experience working in the tourism industry and is well-positioned to move the organization forward during this time of transition.

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The **Shoreline Journal** Deadline for the July issue of is June 22

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Mental Health Grants Totaling \$850,000

The provincial government is investing more than \$850,000 of federal Safe Restart funding in mental health support for 28 organizations across the province, recognizing the importance of mental health to Nova Scotians' overall well-being.

Organizations across the province that serve those most vulnerable to the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 are receiving funding through the federal Safe Restart Agreement.

Organizations receiving funding under this initiative are: Health Association of African Canadians, \$200,000; Canadian Mental Health Association - Nova Scotia Division, \$80,000; The Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia, \$25,000; Autism Nova Scotia, \$25,000; Reachability, \$25,000; Caregivers Nova Scotia, \$25,000; Prescott Group, \$25,000; Inclusion Nova

Scotia, \$25,000 and Mawita'mk Society, \$25,000.

Other groups receiving grants include: Canadian Association of Community Living (Antigonish), \$25,000; Vision Loss Rehabilitation, \$25,000; Canadian Council of the Blind (Nova Scotia Chapters), \$25,000; New Dawn Enterprises,

\$25,000; Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, \$50,000; Antigonish Women's Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association, \$25,000; La Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, \$25,000; Elizabeth Fry, \$15,000; From the Ground Up, \$10,000 and 7th Step, \$10,000.

The final group receiving funding include: Nova Scotia Community Links, \$25,000; Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia, \$25,000; Eating Disorders Nova Scotia, \$25,000; Laing House, \$25,000; Youth Project, \$25,000; MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning, \$25,000; Healthy Minds Cooperative, \$10,000; The Public Good Society, \$15,000 and Heartwood, \$15,000.

No Increase in Tax Rates

By Maurice Rees

Colchester business owners and residents breathed a sigh of relief, when council approved the 2021-2022 budget without an increase in the commercial or residential tax rates. Following approval Mayor Blair said it the third time in four years the rates have been unchanged, except for a half cent in 2019.

Following council's deliberations on April 12th, 19th, and 26th to review the 2021-22 Municipality of Colchester draft Operating Budget prepared by staff. Tax rates remain unchanged in the residential tax rate of \$0.885 per hundred of assessment and

status quo for the commercial tax rate at \$2.28 per hundred of assessment in 2021-22.

Taxes owing will only change based on increase or decrease in assessment.

Colchester estimates revenue of \$26,029,357 for the year ending March 31, 2022. An owner of forest property will pay twenty five (25) cents per acre on holdings of 50,000 or less and forty (40) cents per acre on holdings greater than 50,000 acres. Where an area, village or commission rate is levied for fire protection, the owner shall pay an additional tax of one (1) cent per acre. Taxes are due on August 31st. Interest will be calculated at a rate of 12% all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after the 31st day of August, 2021.

Commission Releases Participation List

Continued from page 1

- (15): Bagley Family; Beaton Family; Blair Family; Bond Family; Campbell Family; Ellison Family; Goulet Family; Gulenchyn/Madsen Family; Jenkins Family; McCully Family; McLeod Family; O'Brien Family; Oliver/Tuck Family; Thomas/Zahl Family and Webber Family.
- Individuals (12): Lisa Banfield; Beverly Beaton; Mallory Colpitts; Darrell Currie; Adam Fisher; Carole Fisher; Leon Joudrey; Tara Long; Andrew MacDonald; Greg Muise; Bernie Murphy and Deb Thibeault.
- Other Individuals from Whom More Information Is Required: The Commission also received applications from eleven Applicants from whom more information is required to better assess their potential contribution. The Commission is inviting them to provide a written submission with more details about how they propose to participate.
- Group Applicants: A number of groups and organizations applied for an opportunity to participate in the Commission's process based upon their interest in various aspects of the mandate. In order to ensure an expeditious review of the issues in the mandate, while making the best use of government funding, some Participants will be grouped into coalitions.
 - Victim Advocacy Organizations: Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC), and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - National Working Group (CACP NWG), Coalition
 - Health-Related Organizations: Nova Scotia Nurses Union (NSNU); Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) and Along the Shore Health Board (ATSHB).
 - Firearms Organizations: Canadian Coalition for Gun Control (CCGC) and Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights (CCFR)
 - Justice Organizations: BC Civil Liberties Association (BCLA) and East Coast Prison Justice Society (ECPJS) Coalition and Nova Scotia Legal Aid (NSLA).
 - Gender-Based Organizations: Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, and Wellness Within Coalition; Fem-

inists Fighting Femicide (FFF) and Persons Against Non-State Torture (PANST) Coalition; Women's Shelters Canada (WSC), Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS), and Be the Peace Institute Coalition and Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFMSN) f. Police-Related Organizations: Atlantic Police Association (APA) and Canadian Police Association (CPA) Coalition; National Police Federation (NPF); Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association (NSCPA); RCMP Veterans Association of Nova Scotia (RCMP-VANS) and Truro Police Service (TPS).



What's The Bloom Program?
The mental health and addictions community pharmacy partnership program of Nova Scotia

HELP!
I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING MY MIND AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO OR WHO TO TURN TO.

Whether you are a youth, middle aged or a senior citizen you may have felt this way one time or another. Or perhaps someone has expressed these feelings to you. Well, what do you do and who can you turn to for help? It depends. The public awareness of mental illness and our willingness to discuss it openly is improving but there is still significant misunderstanding about what is meant by mental illness. Anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, psychosis and other mental illnesses are often classified as mild, moderate and severe. A mental illness results in an inability to think and function normally. 'Depression' is not the same as having a couple of bad days. 'Anxiety' disorder is not the same thing as feeling stressed before an important meeting. 'Panic disorder' is not the same as feeling afraid. And 'OCD' is not the same as being super organized.

A mental illness requires an accurate diagnosis to ensure proper treatment and this will be determined by a doctor, but the journey to getting better can start before you are able to see a doctor. There are a number of government funded services accessible with a doctor referral. But what if you don't have a doctor, or the wait list is months and months? There are many community supports, including the Bloom Program at the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in the Truro Mall.

The Bloom program is a pharmacy-based service that focuses on the care and support provided to people with mental illness. Eligible patients receive comprehensive medication management as well as guidance in accessing services, as needed, in collaboration with their health care team. Call Peter at the Medicine Shoppe for more information, 902.893.3500.

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Larry Harrison, MLA
Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

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