

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## Geoff MacLellan appointed deputy minister

Premier Tim Houston announced Geoff MacLellan, former Liberal Cabinet Minister, as the newest member of his deputy minister team responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, with responsibility for trade and will remain Chair of the HRM Housing Task Force.

Mr. MacLellan will replace Kelliann Dean, who has held the portfolio since 2016. She will continue as deputy minister of the Department of Finance and Treasury Board.

## Making Progress on Implementing New Forest Practices Guide

The Province is close to fully implementing the new forest practices guide as part of its work to ensure a sustainable forestry industry in Nova Scotia. The Silvicultural Guide for the Ecological Matrix applies to Acadian forest on Crown land and is being phased in gradually. By June 1, the majority of practices in the guide will be required.

"We are moving ahead with a fundamental shift in how forestry is done in this province, placing a higher priority on biodiversity and protecting healthy ecosystems within our provincial forests," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "We're supporting that shift through broad-based training for our staff and forestry operators and projects that help private woodlot owners explore how they can adopt ecological forestry."

The guide outlines the types of forest practices that can be used within matrix - also known as mixed forest - areas on Crown lands. In these areas, the triad model of ecological forestry prioritizes biodiversity conservation through lower impact forestry and reduces clearcutting.

Some harvest plans that were approved under old guidelines will be grandfathered. Licensees can continue following the original approval until completed if, as of June 1: — they are actively harvesting a block and they are not actively harvesting, but the block has 10 hectares or less remaining to be harvested.

## Ombudsman William A. Smith Retiring

Nova Scotia Ombudsman William A. Smith will retire effective June 30. "Mr. Smith planned to retire earlier but agreed to stay on to support the office through the pandemic. I thank Mr. Smith for his many years of service to the people of Nova Scotia and to Canada and wish him well in his retirement. A search for his successor will begin in the near future," said Premier Houston.

Mr. Smith, who has been Nova Scotia's Ombudsman since 2016, has overseen the administration and investigation of more than 12,000 files during his six-year tenure. The Office of the Ombudsman celebrated its 50th anniversary year in 2021.

## Premier's Mission to Ireland, U.K., France May 6-18

Premier Tim Houston was on a trade mission to Ireland, the United Kingdom (U.K.) and France May 6 to 18 to strengthen trade, tourism, investment and partnerships with government and business leaders in Dublin, Edinburgh, London and Paris.

The Premier met with key business, organizational and institutional leaders interested in advancing opportunities in tidal and renewable energy, green hydrogen, and ocean and healthcare technology. He also paid his respects to those who lost their lives at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Nova Scotia hosted business receptions in Dublin, Edinburgh and Paris. The delegation also hosted a roundtable on ocean technology in London and met with tourism operators in Scotland and Michelin representatives in Paris.

Meetings were scheduled with and included: Nancy Smyth, Ambassador of Canada to Ireland; Ralph Goodale, High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom; and Chargée d'Affaires Amy Baker in Paris.

## Non-resident Property Tax Removed

Following major opposition from all areas, including a public outcry from non-resident property owners, their families, friends and business associates residents, Premier Tim Houston announced on May 5th, The government will not be moving forward with the non-resident property tax.

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## News from our Federal Capital

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Cobequid Arts Council's Lifetime Achievement awards. The five honorees were awarded for their outstanding commitment to the arts and culture sector.

Pierre Poilievre visited Truro for a meet and greet as part of his tour across Canada in his bid for Conservative Party leader. I am proud to endorse Pierre for Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. One of the pillars of the campaign is affordability and it is imperative that we address this issue. The cost of living is continuing to increase and now more than ever we need a strong leadership to get Canada's economy under control.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign. In her honor and to commemorate this incredible milestone, my office organized a presentation of Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee

pins from the Government of Canada. I presented 75 Platinum Jubilee pins to residents of Cumberland-Colchester who contributed positive change through volunteering in our community.

Overall, it was a pleasure to meet so many amazing volunteers and hear about their community projects. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the recipients once again.

As the summer approaches I am eager to spend more time in Cumberland-Colchester and meet with local businesses and constituents. I will also be attending several events throughout the summer. If there is an event you would like me to attend, please feel free to contact my office at [stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca).

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2683, or E-mail: [stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca)**

## News from our Provincial Council

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of the Replica Car or the alternative exit until much later and they just could not explain how this happened!

Secondly, If there is a positive in this month's story, it will be the overwhelming support the Families received from the Public when they chose to Boycott the proceedings because the RCMP Commanders did not have to appear in person. On Thursday there was a very peaceful and respectful protest by family members in front building housing the hearings.

I attended for a few minutes to chat with some family members. It was an incredibly powerful scene, a steady stream of traffic going by continually honking horns, yelling encouragement and support. This was not occasionally but CONSTANT. It must have been heartwarming to the families to know how passionate their friends, neighbours and most likely people they had never met wanted to show their support. You can be sure the commissioners were aware of this and it should have sent a very powerful message.

As you all know our second setting of the legislature is over. I was away to visit friends for a few days and other than that I have been trying to catch up on Constituency duties. I have spent approx. 1/2 of my time in the office and 1/2 out and about checking roads and meeting folks.

I am very well aware of how bad the gravel roads have been. Our regular Grader Operator Kevin Welton has retired from Public Works. Congratulations Kevin, enjoy, and grow large crops of Blue-

berries. You will be missed. Not only did Kevin retire, but Public Works staff sent the grader to the Mechanical Branch in Truro and we were without a grader. I never became aware of this until third week of May. This caused significant delays to the roads in West Colchester. I clearly articulated my displeasure and we will move forward from here.

Having said all this, I am very well aware of the challenges the residents on gravel roads face. I will do my best to stay on top of this. I will say that my view is that the roads must be graded in a rotation. As with snow plowing it is very unproductive to jump from one road to another for any reason other than an emergency. Chloride or dust control will also be a challenge, there is a limited budget for this and I am and will be advocating for an increased budget for not only this but rural roads in general.

I fully understand the challenges faced by my government and our Minister of finance with respect to the overall budget and the challenges with Health Care, housing, cost of living etc. However years of low or no increase to funding for rural roads have taken a toll and there is much work to be done. As a Government we increased this year's budget for gravel roads by \$22 Million. That is no where near enough and I will advocate hard for additional increases.

Please take time to enjoy this summer, try to get out and enjoy your friends and neighbours. Stay safe and happy

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

## News from our Provincial Capital

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to work, medical appointments, or children to recreational events. I am please to report residents of Truro will soon have access to improved public transportation services thanks to an investment from the Houston government.

Colchester Transportation Co-operative Ltd. will be receiving a total of \$171,569 from the Community Transportation Assistance Program to provide safer and more accessible transportation services to its residents. When the announcement was made I said, "The benefit this investment will have in our community will not

go unnoticed. Many residents in our community rely on public transportation to get to work, to go for groceries or to get to a medical appointment. Meeting this need in an accessible and safe manner is vital."

This region is among twenty-seven municipalities and community organizations benefiting from a \$5 million initiative to improve the transportation sector across the province.

**Dave Ritcey, MLA, Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River can be reached at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at [mlaritcey@bellaliant.com](mailto:mlaritcey@bellaliant.com)**

## A MOTHERS LOVE (MUMS)

*You have but one mum  
Here is a rule of thumb  
Take heart when you talk  
Hold hands when you walk*

*She brought you life*

*Your word must be true  
Don't make her feel blue  
Show her that you care*

*Always treat her fair*

*She brought you life*

*Put smiles on her face  
At meals say grace  
Say thank-you and please  
God bless at a sneeze*

*She brought you life*

*But most of all  
Remember to call*

*"To say that you love her"*

*She brought you life*

*God bless and thank-you  
Thomas A. Marshall  
(Ex-Navy)*

# Guardian

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