

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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## Nova Scotia communities to strengthen asset management

The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Scott Pearce, Acting President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), announced a federal investment of \$95,000 to help two Nova Scotia communities put in place innovative asset management strategies.

Asset management helps communities manage municipal infrastructure assets such as roads, arenas, bridges, drinking water and wastewater systems to ensure maximum performance and make better investment decisions. Asset management also helps reduce risks so municipalities can provide reliable and affordable services and a high quality of life to their residents.

The Municipality of Pictou County receives \$45,000 to use predictive modeling to help the municipality plan water main and wastewater network inspection and replacement programs and optimize investments that will in turn help increase the overall service level.

The Municipality of the County of Victoria receives \$50,000 to update and complete the county's asset inventory for all its assets. Once completed, high priority assets will be identified through a risk assessment approach followed by the development of an asset management strategy that will include short, medium and long-term capital planning. The funding comes from the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) - a \$110-million program funded by the Government of Canada and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

## Nova Scotia Monthly COVID-19 report as of May 9th

Highlights of the Epidemiologic Summary are as follows: As of May 9, 2023, a total of 895 PCR positive results, 89 hospitalizations and 12 deaths from COVID-19 were observed during the month of April 2023. The number of PCR positive results and deaths decreased whereas hospitalizations increased in April 2023 compared to March 2023.

Of the 12 deaths occurring in April, 83% (10) were in people aged 70 years and older and 42% (5) were in people residing in a long-term care facility. Age and under-vaccination continue to be associated with severe outcomes.

Nova Scotians aged 70+ are 29 times more likely to have been hospitalized compared to 18-49 years of age and are 22 times more likely to die compared to 50-69 years of age. Nova Scotians who were unvaccinated or had not completed their primary series were hospitalized and died at approximately two times the rate (1.9 and 2.3, respectively) as those who received a booster within 168 days.

## Twinning Project Reaches Milestone

A new section of twinned highway on Highway 104 opened to traffic May 17, is a 10-kilometre stretch of brand new four-lane, divided highway over Weaver's Mountain. Another two-kilometres to James River has also been finished. It is part of a larger project that will see Highway 104 twinned from the New Brunswick border to just east of Antigonish.

The newly twinned highway 104 is expected to be fully open to drivers later this summer. The construction cost of the project is \$364.3 million, including \$274.3 million from the Province and up to \$90 million from the Government of Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund.

## Functional Space Analysis, Municipal Office

The main County offices at 1 Church Street are in need of major renovations to accommodate growth and also to renew building services and spaces. March Council authorized April Council Committee to award the work.

On motions from Councillors Eric Boutilier and Lisa Patton council authorized staff to award the Functional Space Analysis for 1 Church Street to Root Architecture for a contract value of \$56,500 excluding HST, with source of funds being the Courthouse Reserve.

Four consulting submissions for the Functional Space Analysis were received by closing date of March 23rd: Stantec, Nathaniel Salfas, \$34,543; Root Architecture, \$56,500 and DSRA, \$96,980.

## More Surgeries, Procedures Done Last Year

Surgical and specialist teams across the province are making progress in reducing the wait list for surgery, completing thousands more operations and procedures last year than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The surgical wait list has been reduced by more than 4,000 people in the last year. Since last August, the number of people removed from the list has been larger than the number of people added. There were 1,873 more surgeries in the 2022-2023 fiscal year than in 2019-20. As well, 4,863 more endoscopy and cystoscopy procedures were done last year than in 2019-20.

Some of the changes that led to the higher number of surgeries and procedures include: improved scheduling of operating rooms; new acute care beds; an expanded partnership with the Halifax Vision Centre for cataract surgeries and more outpatient hip and knee joint replacement surgeries.

The number of outpatient hip and knee replacement surgeries increased to 1,193 in 2022-23 from 85 in 2019-20. Those patients returned home to recover rather than being admitted to hospital, leaving beds available for others.

More people were also able to get eye surgeries last year. The expanded partnership with the Halifax Vision Centre helped 927 more patients receive cataract surgeries in Halifax last year compared with the previous year. And 1,465 more patients had eye surgeries at Cape Breton Regional Hospital compared with 2019-20.

# OBITUARIES

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**SHEARER**, Roach Allan - Age 73, passed away peacefully at home on May 23, 2023, surrounded by his family, who spent every last minute with him. Roach was born in Truro on October 31, 1949, the 5<sup>th</sup> of nine boys and one girl, to the late Alex and Florence (Blackmore) Shearer. Roach "Pup" was all about family and always put his kids and grandkids first. He would do anything and everything in his power to make their dreams come true. Whether it was putting in an inground pool or their annual trip south, he made it happen. He loved to travel, hunt and fish, but his heart was always at the ocean. He loved spending time at the camper in Five Islands, digging clams, and fishing flounder or bass (all enjoyed with a good drink of whiskey). He took great pride in his garden and baking bread and cookies (and delivering to friends and family). He loved cutting and splitting firewood to keep the house at least ninety degrees all winter. One of his greatest accomplishments was the beautiful cabin that he built with his wife and best friend, Leona in memory of their son, Wesley. Roach worked in the woods in his younger years, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also operated heavy machinery, working long hours. Later, he was a truck driver and drove long haul for a number of years, travelling anywhere from Florida to NWT. Roach is survived by his wife of 52 years, Leona (Weatherbee); three daughters, Carrie Densmore (Shawn), Daphne Shearer (Jamie Spencer), Jolene Green (Davey); granddaughters,

Sara Densmore (Scott Smith), Brooke Densmore (Calder Saunders), Maddy Shearer (Lucas Webb), Marlee Green (Keegan Grady), Nina Green (Joe Fagioli); grandsons, Calvin Spencer, Brody Shearer (Kenzie Boyd), Grayson Spencer and step-grandson, Logan Green; his great nephew and nieces, Lincoln, Rainna and Malaya, who also had a special place in his heart; sister, Terry Duguay (Kevin); brothers, Teddy (Marg) and Russell; two best friends, Kevin Guier of Freeport, Digby and Wayne Armstrong of Peterborough, Ontario; also his favourite trucking buddy, Scott MacDonald of Tatamagouche. Roach was predeceased by his son and partner in crime, Wes; his Mom and Dad; brothers, Curtis, Elmer, Geordie, Alex, Eric and Perry; father-in-law, Earl Weatherbee Sr.; mother-in-law, Muriel and friend, Cheryl Guier. His honest and open opinion was sometimes feared but Roach was a straight shooter. He protected his family with an iron fist! If you were his friend, it was for life. He fought with everything he had to get up and go everyday. Never losing his sense of humour and never complaining. The only thing he worried about, was leaving his family behind. We would like to thank our Mom (& Nan, Leona) for taking such great care of him which allowed him to be home, right where he wanted to be. Also, thanks to the palliative care team, Angela and Dr. Smith, for their care and guidance. There will be no funeral as per the family's wishes. In memory of Roach, please praise a child, mend a broken relationship, and never give up on your dreams. Donations in Roach's memory may be made to the IWK.

## Bible Hill Man Charged with Drug Offences

The Colchester County District RCMP Street Crime Enforcement Unit has charged a man, seized drugs and cash following a traffic stop in Millbrook. On May 16 at approximately 6:30 p.m., as part of an ongoing investiga-

tion, officers stopped a vehicle on Highway 102 in Millbrook. The driver of the vehicle, a 40-year-old Bible Hill man, was arrested safely. At the scene, RCMP officers located in the vehicle a quantity of cocaine, methamphetamine and ap-

proximately \$8,000 cash.

Robert Joseph Isaac Chestnut, 35, has been charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance for Purpose of Trafficking (two counts) and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was also issued a

summary offence ticket for driving a motor vehicle while having a revoked license. Chestnut was released on conditions and will appear in Truro Provincial Court on July 26, at 9:30 a.m.

The investigation is ongoing.

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