

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Childcare costs reduced by 50%

In 2022, Nova Scotia reduced parent fees for child care by 50 per cent on average and is on track to achieve \$10 a day on average by 2026. 1,500 new centre-based and family home child-care spaces are being created across the province. Nova Scotia has increased its investment in early learning and child care by \$83 million, for a total investment of \$277 million in 2023.

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Support for People Living with Disabilities

An independent expert report that could set the groundwork for closing the province's remaining institutions for people living with disabilities and having their needs managed in the community has been released. The report includes six key directions with supporting action plans and timelines for implementation. The Province and the Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia have agreed that the recommendations will form the basis of a remedy for an ongoing human rights complaint.

The report, titled Human Rights Review and Remedy for the Finding of Systemic Discrimination Against Nova Scotians with Disabilities, was jointly commissioned by the coalition and the Department of Community Services. It was prepared by Eddie Bartnik, an internationally recognized expert in disability, mental health and community services from Australia, and Tim Stainton, a professor in the school of social work at the University of British Columbia and Director of the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship at the university.

The experts recommended reforms to be implemented over five years. It would involve programs and services co-ordinated across many government departments. The cost - not yet estimated - will depend on factors such as program design, staffing levels, the availability of specialized supports and a regional approach to delivering services.

More Primary Care Pharmacies in May

The Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic program will expand to 26 locations from 12. Nine new locations will open Monday, May 1, and the other five will open by the end of May. The Medicine Shoppe, 664 Prince St., Truro, one of the original 12 to open is still the only approved location in Colchester.

The first 12 community pharmacy primary care clinics launched in February. Since then, these clinics have provided more than 9,000 services to more than 5,000 Nova Scotians.

Pharmacists in these clinics can treat and prescribe medication for patients with common illnesses or who have chronic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). They can also provide care for strep throat, including diagnosis and treatment.

Amherst Pharmasave, 158 Robert Angus Dr., Amherst is only the second pharmacy to be approved for opening on May 1. No pharmacies have been approved in the list of nine, scheduled to start delivering the service at the end of May.

Checks Required for Cabaret Bouncers

Security staff will now need a criminal record check and security training to work at late-night bars known as cabarets. Bar security staff will need to take an approved security training course by July 1 in order to work at cabarets. They will also need to provide a criminal record check on request and complete a responsible beverage service training program.

At least one manager or supervisor who has completed both training programs and provided a criminal record check will also need to be on-site during opening hours. The responsible beverage service program, known as Serve Right, is offered in partnership with the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia. If cabarets are found to be in violation of these new licensing requirements, they will be subject to corrective action, which could include a suspension of their liquor license.

Students Recognized for Entrepreneurship

Nova Scotia students receiving the Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence will also get a financial boost to help them start or grow their business. The award, including \$1,000 for each of the winning pitches, is presented annually to deserving students in grades 6 to 12 to recognize their business savvy.

After submitting their ideas in one of three categories, eight finalists were selected to pitch their proposals to a panel of local entrepreneurs at an event Thursday, May 11, at Saint Mary's

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hand, has 20-million units readily available. I consider this to be a sorry situation, that reflects an ongoing failure of the Liberal government to adequately consider Canadians' health.

I urge constituents to view the video clip exchange between myself and Minister Duclos that is posted on my website - please visit: www.drstephenellismp.com

High school medals

I congratulate the following Cumberland-Colchester Grade 11 students that have demonstrated academic excellence, and have been awarded the prestigious Lieutenant-Governor's Medal:

Advocate District School, Olivia Goodwin; **Amherst Regional High School**, Rowan Blanch, Abigail Noreta Byrnes; **Cobequid Educational Centre**, William Robert Hazelton, Sappho Amelia Thompson;

Oxford Regional Education Centre, Marshall William Brown, Cooper Milton Bowden; **Parrsboro Regional High School**, Edwynn Thomas Burke, Ava Elizabeth Flecknell; **Pugwash District High School**, Madison Kyla Allen, Sven Schouten; **River Hebert District School**, Kaden Daniel Reagh Allen, Alley Elizabeth Clattenburg, **South Colchester Academy**, Benjamin Ross MacLeod, Madeline Eve Jollimore; **Springhill Junior Senior High School**, Lindsey Ann Darlene Mattinson, Pauline Emilie Helene Serre; **Tatamagouche Regional Academy**, Brooklynn Christine Hayman; **Colchester Christian Academy**, No medal presented and **École acadienne de Truro**, No medal presented

Amazing program

Congratulations to the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council Ltd.'s Dianne Kelderman of Truro, for her part in obtaining and preserving 15 affordable housing units through the purchase of three buildings in the town.

As we know, some housing rental charges have skyrocketed, adversely affecting those on fixed, or limited incomes.

Through the NSCC's foresight, safe, affordable and accessible apartments will be maintained, with rent freezes guaranteed. I have met with Dianne and I admire her entrepreneurship.

This is a great innovation and ought to serve as a model across Canada. Well done, Dianne!

Colchester Historical Society Heritage Awards

Heritage Awards Night is considered as one of high importance in Colchester. The recognitions were presented May 18, and I commend the worthy recipients for works well done, in support of their communities.

Recipients this year include Dr. Lynn Jones who championed

News from our Provincial Council

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There are now 26 pharmacy clinics offering appointments for patients with common illnesses or who take medications for chronic diseases. There are also several pharmacy walk-in clinics and ALL pharmacies can renew prescriptions.

VirtualCareNS is free for everyone on the Need a Family Practice Registry. If an in-person visit is needed, people will be seen at a primary care clinic. Mobile clinics are also travelling the province. You can find out when they'll be in your area by visiting <https://www.nshealth.ca/mobileprimarycareclinics> or calling 811.

We're also recruiting nationally and internationally. More than

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The Department of Community Services is providing more than \$78,000 in annual funding for operations and housing support services for tenants. The type of service depends on tenants' identified needs such as support for maintaining the unit, referrals to mental health and addictions services, and system navigation supports.

Launched in July 2022, the Community Housing Acquisition Program is the first of its kind in Canada. Under the program, co-ops and non-profit housing providers can access up to \$10 million in repayable low-interest loans to purchase existing rental units.

This is the fifth project acquired by a non-profit organization through the acquisition program.

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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all know, it takes a village.

A couple of exciting things I did this month were to take in the Village Follies Dinner theatre in Debert and visit the Elizabeth Bishop house in Great Village. What a fantastic evening I had at the dinner theatre, great food, great entertainment and amazing volunteers. The Elizabeth Bishop house is even more precious in person. Did you know that that you can rent out the space to get your creative juices flowing. Check out the facebook page for details <https://www.facebook.com/ebretreat?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

The county has been hiring for all sorts of different positions

efforts to preserve the history of one of Truro's Black communities through Down the Marsh Community Land Trust; author David C. Clark, whose book *Hard Times* details the social history of rural life in Nova Scotia in the 1950s and 1960s; and Millbrook Culture and Heritage Centre whose staff recently repatriated Mi'kmaw regalia after more than 100 years in Australia.

Also being recognized is the North Shore Archives Society for its ongoing work to promote heritage education; Donna Hogan, for her role in the Truro Music Festival's 100th-book 'More Joyful Noise'; and Town of Truro's Robert Hilchey Architectural Heritage Award winner Ryan Johnson for his restoration of the property at 81 Brunswick St.

Ontario minister of health

Since my last Shoreline column, it was a great pleasure to sit down with Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier of Ontario, to better understand our shared challenges and future opportunities.

Ontario, of course, has the largest and most diverse population in Canada. That said, it faces the same challenges that we have in Nova Scotia, in general, and Cumberland-Colchester, in particular.

I am looking forward to working with Health Minister Jones to maintain and improve federal-provincial healthcare relations.

Navy ship ceremony

It was an honour to represent our constituency at the dedication ceremony of the HMCS William Hall at CFB Halifax.

The ship is the fourth offshore patrol vessel for the Royal Canadian Navy. The class was derived from the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship project as part of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy and is primarily designed for the patrol and support of Canada's Arctic regions.

As a retired Canadian Armed Forces Captain, it was a proud moment.

And there is more ...

- I am pleased to see that Acadia University has received notice from Premier Tim Houston that a nursing school has been approved for the Annapolis Valley school.

- I had a constructive, continuing dialogue with Lindsay Bennet, executive director, Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy, regarding harnessing of Bay of Fundy tides. Also at the meeting were Mike Mahew of Sustainable Marine, and Sarah Thomas, DP Energy.
- A salute goes out to the Cumberland County RCMP detachment in Springhill for its public awareness day held May 19.

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

160 new doctors started practising in Nova Scotia between April 2022 and March 2023. After factoring in retirements, there are now 86 more family and specialty physicians in the system than there were last year.

We're changing how healthcare is delivered to help Nova Scotians get the care they need, faster. We will do what it takes to fix the system because when we invest in healthcare, we invest in Nova Scotia's future.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at premier@novascotia.ca

Sandra Finney, tenant, at Truro property owned by the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council Ltd said: "It's not easy finding an apartment that is accessible for a wheelchair, and when you do there is always a premium on price. I was so relieved when I heard that our units were being bought by a not-for-profit. Within a week, the new owners had a meeting with all tenants to ask for our input and to assure us that we would not be evicted, and we won't be seeing large increases in rent. I finally have some peace of mind that I will have a safe, affordable and accessible apartment for as long as I want to live here, and I'm not going anywhere. This is my home."

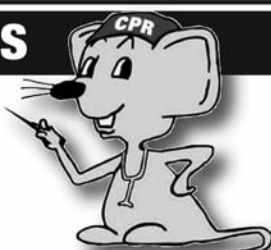
Dave Ritcey is MLA Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached at by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by email at: mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

lately. Check out <https://www.colchester.ca/news/jobs/> if you are in the market for a new career. One thing I can say for sure is that in my experience Colchester County staff have been nothing short of remarkable, so I bet it is a great place to work.

Quick question: How would you like to receive information from the county? Please drop me a line and let me know. As always, I love hearing from residents!! Enjoy your month!

Victoria Lomond is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10. She can be reached at 902-890-1493 or email vlomond@colchester.ca

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