

IWK Telethon 40TH Anniversary



IWK Health

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the IWK Telethon for Children. To recognize this milestone, the IWK Foundation is celebrating 40 years of community giving in support of the IWK through a special weekend of giving.

For the first time, the IWK Foundation will host the IWK Radiothon, a two-hour Live Tribute Show, and the IWK Telethon for Children on CTV over one incredible weekend, from May 31 to June 2. Throughout the weekend, we will share heartwarming IWK patient stories, celebrate donor generosity, and raise much-needed funds for the IWK.

"We are honoured to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Telethon through a special weekend dedicated to our generous community of donors and supporters," said Jennifer Gillivan, President &

CEO, IWK Foundation. "Over the past 40 years, our community has come together to help make their IWK the exceptional place it is for generations of Maritimes children, youth and families. We are so grateful for their unwavering love and support as we reflect on our past and look towards our future."

Weekend of Giving Schedule:

Friday, May 31 (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.): IWK Radiothon, sharing inspiring patient stories on 10 Bell Media radio stations across the Maritimes.

Saturday, June 1 (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.): IWK Telethon LIVE Tribute Show on CTV, featuring some of the Maritimes' best musical artists and greetings from special guests as we pay tribute to our IWK community.

Sunday, June 2 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.): 40th IWK Telethon for Children on CTV, including must-see updates, follow-up with familiar faces from past broadcasts, fun clips from the archives, heartfelt patient family stories and more.

To learn more, please visit: <https://iwkfoundation.org/wa-ys-to-give/iwk-telethon>

Blue-Green Algae Reminder

As the weather gets warmer, it is important for people to know about and watch for blue-green algae while enjoying Nova Scotia's freshwater shorelines.

"We want everyone to safely enjoy our lakes, rivers, ponds and streams this summer. Knowing what to look for allows people to be alert so they can make informed decisions to keep themselves, their families and their pets safe," said Environment and Climate Change Minister Timothy Halman. "One of the impacts of climate change is more blue-green algae."

Nova Scotians can learn more about blue-green algae at: <https://novascotia.ca/blue-green-algae/> A pilot project this year features signs with a QR code at 25 locations in provincial parks; people can scan the code with their phones to get information.

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, is a naturally occurring plant-like substance found in freshwater bodies such as lakes. It is more likely to grow in warmer weather. Swimming in contaminated water can lead to itchy, irritated eyes and skin and swimming or inhaling the water can cause headaches, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Ingesting blue-green algae can be fatal to pets.

People can reduce the risk by: scanning the water and shoreline for blue-green algae before going into freshwater or letting children or pets play in it avoiding contact with blooms; not drinking freshwater when swimming or enjoying lakes; calling a veterinarian if a pet comes into contact with a bloom and reporting sightings by calling 1-877-936-8476.

Quick Facts: algae blooms can look like fine grass clippings in the water, spilled paint, pea soup or sometimes like a thick scum on the surface; algae mats can be found in shallow areas of lakes and rivers and along the shoreline; mats can look like clumps of vegetation and can appear

black, brown or dark green in the water; mats may detach from the bottom and wash up on the shoreline, where they look grey and have a foul odour that may attract dogs and blue-green algae can move around, reform and recur, making testing unreliable in large bodies of water.

Blue-green algae fact sheet: <https://novascotia.ca/blue-green-algae/documents/blue-green-algae-factsheet.pdf>

News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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imaging company will improve access and reduce wait times for patients. Two MRI machines will be added to the system and two will be replaced: a new machine purchased through donations to the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation will be in service at the hospital next month; two machines will be replaced as part of the QEII Halifax Infirmary expansion project, with the first delivered by the end of June and the second later in the year; the QEII Foundation, through donor support, has purchased a new relocatable MRI machine that can be moved to different facilities around the province; it is the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada and will be operational at the Bayers Lake Community Outpatient Centre by the end of July.

More Training Seats for Medical Laboratory Technicians - Nova Scotia continues to train more medical laboratory technologists, faster. These healthcare professionals are in high demand, and to help address this need, Nova Scotia Community College is increasing the number of seats in its training program to 60, up from 40, this September.

The Medicine Shoppe Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic - Pharmacist-led clinics provide an extended suite of pharmacy primary care services at no charge to people with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card. These services include assessment and prescribing for: Strep Throat; Pink Eye; UTIs; Chronic Disease Management (Diabetes, Asthma, COPD) and Prescription renewals for all medications and more. Publicly funded vaccines for adults and children are also available at these clinics as well as medical injections (fee may apply). The Medicine Shoppe, Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic, 1B-664 Prince Street, 902-814-2679

Lawton's Pharmacist Plus Clinic - The Pharmacist Plus Clinics are another way we're improving access to healthcare for all Nova Sco-

Geopark Networking & AGM

The Fundy Geopark Society will hold a Networking Event and its Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024, starting at 7pm at the Economy Recreation Centre. Learn about the Geopark and what's new, network and exchange brochures with area tourism businesses and organizations, and most importantly, renew your membership or become a member to participate in the Annual General Meeting.

Tourism Businesses and Organizations are invited to set up a display to promote themselves and exchange brochures (set up between 6:30pm-7pm). The networking event will begin at 7pm with light refreshments and the Annual General Meeting will take place at 7:30pm.

Annual membership fees for the Society are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for a family, and \$20 for

businesses/organizations. All proceeds support the Society and its work in promoting the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, which spans the Fundy shore from Lower Truro to Apple River.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are landscapes of international geological significance that are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development. At present, there are 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 countries. Cliffs of Fundy is one of just five in Canada. The Geopark and UNESCO designation puts this region on the international stage and validates something we have always known - we live in a very special part of the world!

If you have questions email manager@fundygeopark.ca or call 902-641-2225.

tians. The Truro Lawton's Pharmacist Plus Clinic is a walk-in clinic that has a nurse practitioner and pharmacists working as a team to provide a variety of health care services, from primary care to chronic disease prevention and management. Services include: Diagnosing and treating routine and more immediate health concerns; Prescribing medications and prescriptions renewals; Medication management or modifications; Chronic disease management; Health screening and preventative care; Ordering and interpreting tests; Vaccinations and injections and Making referrals to specialists and other health care providers. Lawton's Pharmacist Walk-In Clinic +, 316 Willow Street, Suite 20, 902-896-0987

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

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

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Funding for Cutting-Edge Startups, Biomedical Technologies

The Province is helping more new companies turn their innovative ideas into working prototypes. Economic Development Minister Susan Corkum-Greek announced \$650,000 for Dalhousie University's Emera ideaHUB on May 7. The funds will enable Dalhousie to add a spring cohort to its ideaBUILD program, doubling the number of advanced technology startups for the next three years. Half of the new enrolments will be focused on technologies to advance product development for biomedical engineering.

The ideaBUILD program is a rigorous, 10-month program that helps founders take their physical product idea from design to prototype and prepare for manufacturing and scale. It includes workshops and one-on-one sessions focused on designing and building hardware and on business fundamentals for startups. The program provides up to \$10,000 to founders to purchase materials and services to build their prototypes.

The ideaBUILD program will accept up to 20 startups each year - 10 each in the spring and fall. ideaHUB opened in 2018 to enable startup founders to advance products and technologies that could have a global impact and ideaHUB has supported 148 startups, with 85 per cent continuing after their first year. Additional Resources: Emera ideaHUB: <https://dalideahub.ca/> and ideaBUILD: <https://dalideahub.ca/programs/ideabuild/>

More Access, Improved Wait Times for MRIs

Four new medical resonance imaging (MRI) machines and a partnership with a medical imaging company will improve access and reduce wait times for patients. Two MRI machines will be added to the system and two will be replaced: - a new machine purchased through donations to the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation will be in service at the hospital next month; - two machines will be replaced as part of the QEII Halifax Infirmary expansion project, with the first delivered by the end of June and the second later in the year. The QEII Foundation, through donor support, has purchased a new relocatable MRI machine that can be moved to different facilities around the province; it is the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada and will be operational at the Bayers Lake Community Outpatient Centre by the end of July. An MRI machine at the Victoria General Hospital is also scheduled for replacement in 2025 and the QEII Foundation will be fundraising to secure a mobile MRI unit.

Nova Scotia Health will also enter into a five-year, \$7.6-million agreement with Healthview Medical Imaging in Halifax to provide publicly funded MRI and ultrasound scans. There will be no cost to patients. MRI machines use powerful magnets and a computer that take detailed pictures of inside the body to help doctors make decisions about treatment.

New Bursary for Skilled Trades Students at NSCC

As part of the Province's plan to grow the skilled trades workforce, a new bursary will support 320 students starting training in Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) construction programs in September. Students with financial need can apply for the \$5,000 Growing Nova Scotia's Skilled Trades Workforce Bursary to help pay for tuition and living costs while training in high-demand construction trades programs at NSCC campuses across Nova Scotia.

"It's about removing barriers. The skilled trades are for everyone, and we know we need more skilled trades professionals to build our houses, hospitals and schools. We've been listening to Nova Scotians and know that some need extra financial assistance to attend NSCC and this new bursary will encourage more students to complete their studies in the trades and help them to launch their careers," said Jill Balseer, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. "It will also create a great opportunity for equity-deserving groups who traditionally face barriers to employment."

To be eligible, students must: be enrolled full-time in the first year of one of the 19 construction programs at NSCC and demonstrate financial need.

While preference will be given to equity-deserving students, any student with financial need can apply. Students who receive the bursary this year will be able to apply for renewal in their second year. Applications are open until July 18. NSCC students can apply through the college awards portal.

The \$3.2-million investment for the new bursary is part of the \$100 million announced in October to recruit, retain and train more people in skilled trades. The government is accelerating growth in the skilled trades and modernizing the apprenticeship and trades qualification system to meet the needs of a growing province.

Tom TAGGART



Tom Taggart MLA Constituency Office

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The building beside Masstown Petrocan

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Hours - 8:30am - 3:30pm

Use the lower level entrance - Look for the Entrance Sign in Parking Lot