



Jean-Eve Dickie, left, founder of Book of Love Canada, chats with Rebecca Dennis, acting Events and Special Project Co-ordinator, with the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce, following the Spring Women in Business Breakfast held in Truro.



Walker Lofts business partners Jill Linquist, Matthew MacQuarrie, second from left, and Jon Keddy are presented with a Town of Truro Robert Hilchey Memorial Heritage Award by Truro Mayor Bill Mills for their redevelopment of the historically significant building at 880 Prince Street.



George Oberprieler, CEO of Community Credit Union, left, and outgoing Chairman Rod Gilroy, draw for door prizes at the organization's AGM held in Amherst on April 23.

## Museum Renamed to Reflect its History

Clifton Museum Park, formerly Haliburton House Museum, returns the original name to the property and helps address the complex legacy of its former owner. Located in Windsor, Clifton Museum Park is part of the Nova Scotia Museum. The Nova Scotia Museum consulted cultural organizations, local government and visitors before renaming the museum.

For more than 50 years, the museum was named after Thomas Chandler Haliburton, a businessman, judge and au-

thor who gained fame through his fiction. His work was noted for its racism, sexism and bigotry, even in the 1800s. Haliburton inherited significant wealth from slavery, seized land from Acadians and spoke out against the emancipation of slaves and education for African Nova Scotians.

The estate was built for Haliburton and named Clifton for the English birthplace of his wife, Louisa Neville. Clifton was dropped from the name in the 1970s, decades after the museum opened in 1939.

## Green Nova Scotia First Advocates for Prioritizing Decarbonization

By Gregor Wilson

Green Nova Scotia First (GNSF), a collective voice of concerned citizens, is urging both the Federal and Provincial governments to carefully reconsider initiatives promoting the Province as a 'global leader' in hydrogen and ammonia production, citing concerns about the true environmental impact and unrealistic economics of these projects.

"While we acknowledge the importance of renewable energy development, we must ensure that our pursuit of reported 'green' solutions does not come at the expense of our environment, biodiversity and quality of life," stated Gregor Wilson, a representative of Green Nova Scotia First. "The production of hydrogen and ammonia, touted as environmentally friendly and, economically viable, demands significant Nova Scotia resources including land, water, wind and energy from Nova Scotia's already burdened fossil-fuelled grid."

Wilson says these projects also require huge public investment in the form of subsidies. "The lack of any executed sales contracts speaks volumes and should make Nova Scotians very skeptical of promises made from all levels of government and the proponents."

"It is crucial that the interests of multinational corporations do not supersede the province's environmental obligations and energy reduction targets," says Wilson. "We strongly urge the Nova Scotia Government to support community green energy projects that will reduce Nova Scotia's dependence on fossil fuels and yield lasting benefits for affected communities."

Green Nova Scotia First advocates a comprehensive approach to renewable energy development, based on:

- 1. Prioritizing "Greening Our Grid First"** before supporting large scale, privately owned hydrogen/ammonia export projects. The proposed hydrogen projects will do little to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Nova Scotia and require Nova Scotia's energy grid for back-up power. Building the infrastructure for these projects destroys thousands of acres of forests, wetlands, rivers, and fields that now store carbon, increasing NS GHG emissions.
- 2. Landscape-Level Planning:** Implement a provincial strategy for Landscape-Level Planning to effectively manage

forests, soils, and water resources, ensuring sustainable land use practices. The Province has not done their homework to determine where these hydrogen projects and their industrial wind turbines could be developed without compromising Nova Scotia's need for wind power or negatively impacting the surrounding environment. A landscape-level plan provides a comprehensive strategy to manage and conserve our water, soil, and wildlife habitats, across large areas. This approach would take into account land use, biodiversity, community development and human activities to promote sustainability and balance in Nova Scotia's landscape.

**3. Strengthen the Environmental Assessment Process:** There is a troubling trend in

fast-tracking approval of industrial wind projects with minimal investigation of the effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities. Currently the government does a bad job informing the public about industrial projects, gives little time for the public input and favours industry over the well being of communities and the people who enjoy using our natural resources.

**4. Community, Economic and Ecological Resilience:** Ensure that proposed energy projects prioritize the health of communities and ecosystems, including financial impacts, in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss. Large wind turbine and hydrogen projects require the devastation of thousands of acres of land, threatening wildlife, ecosystems, trails, recreation opportunities, tourism and

economic development, natural beauty and quality of life. The cost of these impacts have not been considered in economic, environmental or social assessment reports.

EverWind Fuels and Bear Head Energy have plans to construct plants in Point Tupper, Cape Breton for the production and export of hydrogen and ammonia. Both companies plan to power production with large scale wind farms. Bear head Energy has, to date, proposed 100 wind turbines on Blue Mountain in Pictou County. EverWind Fuels is planning four large wind projects in Nova Scotia, including one with 300 or more turbines in Guysborough County. **Gregor Wilson, Green Nova Scotia First Member can be reached at: info@greennovascotiafirst.ca or (902) 986-8989. Website: greennovascotiafirst.ca**

## Initial Six-Month Report Released

The Progress Monitoring Committee of the Mass Casualty Commission released its initial six-month report and monitoring plan May 1 as required under its terms of reference. The committee, led by Founding Chair Linda Lee Oland, monitors and reports on the implementation of recommendations in the final report of the Mass Casualty Commission.

"Achieving the Mass Casualty Commission's vision for systemic social change will take leadership, collaboration and partnership," said Ms. Oland. "The reports made to the Progress Monitoring Committee so far have been encouraging. I am proud of the foundational and monitoring work we've done in our first six months to ensure the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia and the RCMP are accountable to the public for their progress going forward."

The six-month update covers the period from late September, when the committee first met, to March 31. It includes: summary of committee meetings and its work to date; an overview of the initiatives undertaken by the federal and provincial governments and the RCMP and the monitoring plan, which sets out how progress will be assessed.

The committee will issue its first annual report

following the September 2024 meeting.

**Quick Facts:** Ms. Oland was appointed to the role of founding chair for one year; her term ends on May 31; the Progress Monitoring Committee meets quarterly; the next meeting will be held in Ottawa in June. In September, 16 people were appointed to the committee, which consists of representatives from the governments of Nova Scotia and Canada, victims' families, municipal governments, policing associations, gender-based violence advocacy and support sectors, Indigenous community organizations and African Canadian community organizations

Forming the committee responds to the Mass Casualty Commission's final report, which called on the two governments to establish an independent body to monitor the progress of advancing and responding to the commission's key findings

**Additional Resources:** Six-month report and monitoring framework: <https://novascotia.ca/progress-monitoring-committee/docs/pmc-monitoring-plan-en.pdf> Progress Monitoring Committee, including committee members, terms of reference, and meeting summaries: <https://novascotia.ca/progress-monitoring-committee/>

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