

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## New Wig Rebate for Cancer Patients

Nova Scotians being treated for cancer and dealing with hair loss can now get help with the cost of a wig through a one-time rebate of \$300. To be eligible for the program, people must: be a resident of Nova Scotia with a valid health card; have a gross family income no greater than \$35,000 per year; be enrolled in the Drug Assistance for Cancer Patients Program and not have private insurance that covers the cost of a wig.

About 360 patients could be eligible for the new program, which is estimated to cost \$110,000. About 360 patients could be eligible for the new program, which is estimated to cost \$110,000. The cost of a wig can range from \$200 to \$2,000; the average cost is about \$650. The Province also provides a rebate for mastectomy breast prostheses, as well as two programs that support low-income cancer patients - the Assistance for Cancer Patients and the Boarding, Transportation and Ostomy programs

**People can apply at:**  
<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/pharmacare/cancer-assistance.asp>

## Several cancer-care improvements

The government has made several cancer-care improvements recently, including: launching a new lung screening program, as well as screening programs for colon, cervical and breast cancers; providing more funding for community oncology clinics, helping more people get the care they need closer to home; enhancing communication among oncology providers and patients, resulting in improved care, shorter wait times and better results; introducing a first-in-the-world Ethos radiotherapy system with HyperSight imaging, decreasing the average number of treatments to five from 20 and a new 10-year partnership with Varian that will make Nova Scotians among the first in the world to access new oncology technology and innovative programs.

## New Program to Increase Child-Care Spaces

A new child-care expansion program announced May 2 will help create more licensed not-for-profit child-care spaces across the province. The Early Learning and Child Care Major Infrastructure Program will provide \$25-million to fund new construction or major renovations that will create new child-care spaces. Priority will be given to projects that serve diverse or vulnerable communities, communities with low child-care coverage rates and projects in publicly owned facilities.

Funding caps differ based on the type of project. For leasehold and rental properties, project applicants can receive up to \$20,000 per space created, up to a maximum of \$1.5 million. For properties owned by the child-care operator or if the child-care centre is in a public building, such as a university, projects can receive up to \$40,000 per space created, up to a maximum of \$3.5 million.

Applications for the Early Learning and Child Care Major Infrastructure Program are open; deadline is June 13.

## Junior Achievement 31st Class of Laureates

JA Nova Scotia (JANS) is excited to announce the 31st Class of Laureates being inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame on October 8th, 2024 at the Halifax Convention Centre. Each year, inductees are chosen for their unmatched significance; their lifetime contributions to the economic development and growth of Nova Scotia. The 31st Class of Laureates include: Bill Black, Keith Condon, Dr. Jeff Dahn and Rose Fortune

Laureates are formally welcomed into the NS Business Hall of Fame at the Induction Gala hosted at the Halifax Convention Centre in Halifax on October 8th, 2024. Tables and tickets to the Gala are now on sale. The purchase of a Chairperson table (\$5,000 for table of 10), a Governor table (\$3,500 for table of 8) and individual tickets online by visiting [www.nsbusinesshalloffame.ca](http://www.nsbusinesshalloffame.ca).

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## News from our Federal Capital - Dr. Stephen Ellis

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for its continued commitment to preserving and expanding our past and present in the community. I am pleased that certificates were presented for Ashley Sutherland, a former archivist at the Colchester Historem Museum & Archives; The Willow Church Cemetery Society; Verna (Patriquin) Lowden, a longtime member of the Sunrise Trail Museum and the North Shore Archives Society; Terry White, who has been an active Historical Society member for more than 50 years; and Walker Lofts, recipient of the Town of Truro's 2024 Robert Hilchey Memorial Heritage Award for the re-development of 880 Prince St., the former A.J. Walker & Sons hardware store.

## Dental care

The Trudeau government's national Dental Care Program exploded on contact in April and by May, thousands of Canadian dentists were still hesitating at participating. The 'hurry up offence' legislation is an ill-thought and ill-presented mishmash, touted by Health Minister Mark Holland as a great deal for Canadians, many of whom have found the program to be far-from 'free'. Coupled with the fact that dentists find the deal to be full of cavities, this program clearly illustrates a government in its failing stage. Here are just two samples from the Nova Scotia Dental Association that prove the case: (1) It is not a "free" program. They had a client last week who was 100 per cent covered by Sunlife, but only up to a certain amount due to the scale the government used to get the Canadian average pricing. The client ended up paying out of pocket for the remainder of the fee that was owing. It is very misleading. (2) The dental association states that if a dentist does one "job" or procedure under the plan, it means the dentist automatically agrees to the contract and plan. That is how they are getting away with "dentists no longer have to sign up for the plan".

## News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart

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Within that collaborative practice I believe we have 4 nurse practitioners and one registered nurse. The one challenge we have not succeeded in as yet is recruiting a general practitioner. I keep being told that this is close, possibly as close as a GP selling their home in Britain. Any way you look at it we have had significant success in West Colchester. This little commentary is a prime example of how I always get off topic and digress.

I started out wanting to talk about how health care delivery is changing the benefits of this app. Along with continuing to recruit and train new nurses and doctors, our government is working hard to find innovative ways to deliver services and enable others. Even for those with and assigned health care provider, it is often difficult to get an appointment on short notice resulting in a visit to the Emergency room where often even though we are unwell we are not in an emergency situation and wait for hours. This app will give you an alternative. By answering some basic medical questions, it will direct you the best place of care. That may be the emergency room, it may be a pharmacist, a virtual online doctor or some other qualified person. Additionally, those who sign up to the app receive two free annual visits to Maple Virtual Care. By using this app, you not only get care faster for yourself or your family member, you also take pressure off an already stressed system.

Currently there are 60,000 patients per month diverted from emergency rooms and doctor's offices. In my view that is success!

## Bits and bites

I met with executives of the Canadian National Millers Association (CNMA) regarding recent changes to the Canada Labour Code and its impact on their sector. We also discussed ongoing modernization standards implemented by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

As part of my commitment to create contact with provincial health ministers and experts in medicine, I held a positive session with Quebec Minister of Health Christian Dubé. I also met with the University of Calgary's Dean of Medicine, Dr. Todd Anderson and Director of Government Relations. He is a cardiologist and an internationally recognized clinician-scientist in the study of blood vessel function, and he is responsible for updating the national guide for treating a blood condition that leads to heart disease.

While in Calgary, I also met with David Wood General Counsel of Psygen Labs Inc. I learned how the company contributes to improving mental health for Canadians and the niche that experimentation of psychedelic drugs occupies within the pharmaceutical industry. On the trip back from Calgary, sitting next to me was the Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Lesa Semmler.

I met with Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) directors, who represent more than 1,200 Canadian egg farmers, including Bayview Poultry Farm's Glen Jennings, first vice-chair of EFC's Board of Directors. The EFC's key priority for Atlantic Canada is environmental sustainability. These farmers rely on our system of supply management, which safeguards the agriculture sector, and provides food security to millions of Canadians who eat eggs every day.

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

Additionally, there were reports on improvements or gains in many other areas such as recruitment in advanced care paramedics. One patient one record is another advancement close to be coming a reality. Were you aware that currently if you were somewhere else in the province and needed emergency healthcare that healthcare provider could not access your personal health records? One patient one record will fix that. Slowly but surely we are modernizing the system. As I said in the beginning this valuable information meeting was, for probably many reasons, not well attended. When the summer is over and folks are more settled, I will arrange for similar meetings throughout Colchester North and will mail a meeting notice to every home in this constituency.

In closing, one final piece of information that I found interesting. I have commented many times over the past 15 years that I have been writing these articles about what I perceived as need for more youth and declining school enrollments. In recent years that trend is reversing and enrollment is increasing. The Colchester Regional Hospital is relatively new, I am guessing 15 years. It has 12 neo-natal rooms. It was reported that recently for the first time since opening every single room was in use with new babies. I see that as reason to celebrate!!!

Stay safe and enjoy your summer.

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

## Bridge Tender \$7,527,489

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would have impaled access to the Dominion Chair Factory store to the point it would have serious negative economic impacts.

In his quest to have the final version of bridge as "near perfect as possible", MLA Tom Taggart suggested Public Works look at the Roger Bacon Bridge in Nappan. Back to the drawing boards, a suitable wooden suspended design was selected which would meet Taggart's approval of lower bed level; more appealing to the history of the area as major supplier of lumber and not impact Dominion Chair Factory Store.

At tender closing three bids were received: Balodis Inc, Westville, \$7,527,489; Dexter Construction, \$9,164,350 and Zutphen Contractors Inc., \$9,812,825. As the lowest tender submitted, Balodis was awarded the contract.

NS Power has been busy realigning the power poles. Construc-

tion will begin immediately, before end of May. The new routing of Hwy 2 to Maple Street will cut across the existing entrance to Veteran's Memorial Park, requiring a modified realigned entrance to the iconic park; and eliminate the location of the Lumber mill heritage display to a new location.

When construction is complete, traffic safety will be significantly improved, because a stop sign will be erected from Hwy 2 (traveling west) onto Maple Street. Hwy 2 traffic traveling easterly will make a 90-degree right turn to get across the bridge and back onto Hwy 2 toward Great Village..

Our investigation has resulted in learning the road and bridge deck level will only about three feet higher than existing because the bridge is suspended, and not supported by large concrete girders which would have required 7-9 foot rise in bridge deck. Tender documents suggested a construction period of 17 months, however MLA Taggart suggested he was informed, the bridge could be finished by end of 2024.

# Guardian

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