



WCCS grade 5 student, Ally Strachan, during Hat day for Haiti. (Submitted Photo)



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Gospel Music Concert
Bass River Baptist Church
Bass River, N.S.
March 7, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.
Choirs from:
Pugwash Baptist Church
Truro Heights Baptist Church
and other Gospel music artists performing.
Free Will Offering for church purposes.
Wheel chair accessible.
Lic. Larry Tirrell – Pastor
Church: 902-647-2567 Home: 902-843-5941





A large crowd was on hand for a public meeting at West Colchester Consolidated School to protest the CCRSB proposed closure of Bass River Elementary. (Submitted Photo)

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New MP Scott Armstrong hard at work for the citizens of Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

This is my first column since being elected your Member of Parliament. First, I would like to thank publishers Maurice and Dorothy Rees for providing me this forum to dialogue with constituents on the Fundy Shore and Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro. I would also like to congratulate them both on the wonderful improvements they have made to the Shoreline Journal, since acquiring the paper in 2008. The Shoreline Journal is one of the best community based newspapers anywhere.

I've been very proud to serve as your MP for just over four months now. Since being sworn in, our government has provided federal support for the Colchester Transportation Cooperative Ltd., we announced funding to help upgrade the Colchester Legion Stadium, an investment to assist in the development of the Mi'kmahey Debert Cultural centre and trail network, announced funding for two buildings in Wentworth Valley to help host events for the 2011 Canada Winter games.

We've assisted in investment in the structural restoration and stabilization of the Thinker's Lodge in Pugwash, partnered with the provincial government to support an expansion of the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro, announced funding for a new Nova Scotia Agricultural College Innovation Centre, provided funding for the East Hants Adult Learning Association in Enfield, funding for the Fundy Ocean Research Centre (FORCE) a new facility for Parrsboro and funding to assist youth who face barriers to employment in Truro and Amherst to acquire job preparation training and work experience through the governments support for employment program.

Prime Minister Harper visits riding

As a newly elected MP, it was indeed an honour and pleasure to host Prime Minister Stephen Harper in our riding recently. As I said at the time, the Prime Minister's visit was an historic day for Truro, Colchester County and Central Nova Scotia. By announcing \$10 million dollars of federal support for the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre, this underlined the importance and benefits that can accrue to citizens when municipal, provincial, federal governments and volunteers form a partnership to "get things done".

This new facility, to be built on land adjacent to the new hospital, will house a NHL-sized rink with fixed seating for 3, 200 spectators, a three-lane walking track, an aquatic centre with a

eight-lane competitive pool and a leisure pool, a fitness centre, as well as other multi - purpose spaces for meetings and conventions.

Fairness for the self - employed - help for farmers, fishers and other small business owners

I'm pleased that Bill C-56, the Fairness for the Self - Employed Act received Royal Assent late last year. This is very good news for small business owners, farmers and fishers in Cumberland -Colchester- Musquodoboit Valley. The legislation extends Employment Insurance, maternity, parental, sickness and compassionate care benefits, collectively referred to as special benefits, to the self employed on a voluntary basis.

Thanks to this new initiative, self employed constituents will no longer have to choose between their family and their business responsibilities. It's good family policy, and it represents one of the most significant enhancements to the EI program in the last decade. The self-employed have previously had little or no income protection to cope with major life events such as giving birth, caring for a newborn or newly adopted child, being sick or injured, or caring for a gravely ill family member.

This new measure responds to the Government's 2008 pledge to help provide improved economic security and support for all those who are self-employed. The self-employed who choose to take advantage of the special benefits will be required to opt into the program at least one year prior to claiming benefits. Subject to final approvals of regulations, they will be able to voluntarily opt into the EI program effective January 31, 2010, and, as a transitional measure, will be able to collect benefits as early as January 1, 2011, if they have registered on or before April 1, 2010. Special benefits for self-employed individuals will mirror those currently available to salaried employees under the EI program. For further information on this program I encourage you to go to the website: http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/ei/self_employed_workers.shtml.

Please feel free to contact me with any issue you have of concern. You can reach me at 893-2455 in Truro, 667-8679 in Amherst or toll-free 1-888-752-0552 or visit my website www.scottarmstrongmp.ca



Scott Armstrong, MP
Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley

Hospital Shortfall – Local communities should not be asked for more.

The community served by the Colchester Hospital has raised more than \$26 million to support the construction of the new regional hospital. As former Health Minister and Colchester North MLA, I believe the local community has already given its "fair share". It is unfair to ask a community that has been squeezed as tightly as this one to be asked to give anything more. Per capita, this community has given more than any other community to any other project. The donors and supporters need to be acknowledged for that.

It is my understanding that an additional 25 million is now required, and that the current NDP Minister of Health, Maureen MacDonald has asked the District Health Authorities to solicit more funding from the communities served by the hospital.

We know that costs on any project can escalate and for a number of reasons. It is unfortunate that this has happened with this project. However, when it does, governments have a responsibility to make sure the project moves to completion. That may

require a reallocation of money within the department, or across other departments. This is a project in progress, it needs to be brought to completion and the government has the responsibility and the ability to do that. This is a government that campaigned on "making things better for Nova Scotians". Here is a community with a project in progress that was designed to make things better for Nova Scotians. Let's see this government govern on the same principles upon which it campaigned. I am expecting the MLA for Truro/Bible Hill will also fight on behalf of her constituents to ensure decisions made by her government will allow this project to proceed. This is not a partisan issue. It is an issue about the health and safety of our communities and needs to become a priority for government to address and resolve.



Karen Casey, MLA
Colchester North Ph: 902-893-2180

News from Municipal Council

Hi Folks and thanks to Maurice for providing this column to allow me to update you on Council initiatives and issues.

I will start off with what many consider to be the bad news. Green Carts. I have had many calls in opposition to this and I understand. I was prepared to go to that meeting and oppose this. My idea was that we really do not want or need green carts in rural Colchester County.

However, we were given a presentation on the needs and as much as I wanted to oppose, it was clear that the green carts are a necessity. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment tracks the solid waste which is delivered to all provincial landfill and balefill sites. The Counties track all the waste that is diverted out of the waste stream before it goes to the balefill.

The Province then provides financial credits for those that do a good job of diverting or recycling. Currently we are the fifth worst County in the province. Recycling and green bins will help with waste reduction, and any rebates will be a financial savings for the tax payers of this County.

However, the most important reason that I voted to support the green bins was the fact that it will keep compostable waste out of our balefill. When our compostable waste is not diverted and is placed in the balefill with the regular garbage it decomposes and creates considerably more methane gas than it would in the organic process and that methane gas is 21 times harder on the environment than carbon monoxide.

On the positive side, the County Recreation Department has

some very nice plans for our Municipal Park on Broderick Lane in Five Islands. There are plans for a children's play structure, as well as some covered picnic shelters and a barbeque pit. For those who have not visited this site, take time to drop down this summer as the view on a nice day is second to none.

I would also like to mention how nice it was to see such a large turnout in support of the Bass River elementary school. It's nice to see that our rural communities can get out and support what we believe in. Also, a thank you to Mayor Taylor for coming to the meeting and lending his support to our cause.

I would like to advise you that there will be a town hall meeting with the R.C.M.P. to discuss community priorities as they relate to policing. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Bass River Fire Hall.

There are many things to talk about, like the Thirsty Church, but I will save some for next time and I expect Maurice will cut me off soon anyway.

In closing, I would like to say how much I appreciate this opportunity to serve on Council and to say, please call me if you have any concerns or criticism.

I will always do what I can. My email is councillordistrict10@colchester.ca and my phone is 647-2025.

Tom Taggart, Councilor District 10
Municipality of the County of Colchester

