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The National Disaster Mitigation Program. "It will provide \$200 million over five years to establish a program that will be of great benefit to our riding. For the first time provinces and municipalities will be able to apply for federal funding for flood mitigation projects. Flooding is an issue throughout the riding and the federal government will participate with this \$200 million fund. The funding will start in 2015-2016 to better protect Canadians and their homes through this program. The program will support investments in structural mitigation measures, such as infrastructure to control floods that can reduce the impact of severe natural disaster such as the recent flooding in Truro. The costs of the projects will be shared by the provinces and territories. Details of the program will be announced over the coming months. The projects are also eligible for federal cost-sharing under the new Building Canada Plan.

In addition, the government will be consulting with the insurance industry, the provinces and the territories to explore options for a National Residential Insurance Flooding Program. Canada is the only G-8 country without residential flooding insurance leaving many Canadian householders with inadequate protection from overland flood events.

Our government believes that homeowners should have flood insurance. In this budget the Minister has signalled that our government is going to work with the insurance industry so that Canadians

will be able to insure their homes against flood damage.

Equally important, our Plan keeps Canada on track to balance the budget in 2015. From Greece to Detroit, we've seen the consequences of governments that don't focus on putting their fiscal house in order. Balanced budgets do more than signal stability and make Canada a more attractive place to invest, they also keep taxes low and ensure our children and grandchildren aren't saddled with our debt.

However, our government is not balancing the budget by cutting transfers to the provinces for health care or education. In fact, under the Conservative Government those transfers are at all-time highs. Instead, we're making government programs more efficient - cutting waste and ensuring every taxpayer dollar is spent in as useful a manner as possible.

For more information on Economic Action Plan 2014 and how it can benefit you, I encourage you to visit www.actionplan.gc.ca

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll - free at 1-888-752-0552; visit my website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong MP.

Scott Armstrong, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Social Development
MP Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley.

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feel we are safe to allow the discharge. I have two concerns! One would be the perception the Bay of Fundy might be tainted or stigmatized by releasing even properly treated fracking fluid. The second and most important is should the provincial government decide to allow fracking in this province Debert and AIS will be the preferred location for all fracking fluids in the future. This to me is absolutely not acceptable regardless of how well it is treated.

I would like to speak for a minute about the current fracking moratorium and the study/consultation/review process the Provincial Government has undertaken. It is my hope one of their stops will be in Central Nova Scotia. I actually commend the province on this process and feel given the state of our economy and the potential economic benefits it would be irresponsible of them not to ensure due diligence and understanding of this process.

I have some very strong concerns about the process but will accept their decision either way. I have said before I am truly opposed to the amount of fresh water used in this process. I consider the contaminated flow back water to be the greatest environmental risk of the whole fracking process and I feel in the event the moratorium is lifted one of the conditions is that the fluid be cleaned on site and re-

used. This is done in other areas of North America where water sources are not readily available.

My last comment on this is should the Provincial Government decide the rewards out stripe the risk they commit to ensuring the Dept of Environment be given adequate funding and manpower to ensure proper enforcement and regulations with teeth that can and will punish any violators.

In closing, I would like to say how relieved I am that the Provincial Minister of Agriculture has taken responsibility for the operation of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition property and the Harness racing facility. I am sure most are aware the board of the NSPE asked on two different occasions for the Municipality to take over this facility. This is not something I favored, however when you look at the facts/the big picture, whatever you want to call it, this facility is too important a community asset to allow to fail or to allow to fall into private hands.

As a result I voted in favor of our support/bailout package. In the end the minister has taken responsibility and let us off the hook. I look forward to stability and growth of this facility.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

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restoration association stop and think about how many thousands of volunteer hours it took to make that experience possible. Not to mention snowmobile trails, ATV trails, hiking trails, even a hospital stay is made more comfortable because of volunteers.

Please take the time to sit down and check your calendar. I'm sure if you are not currently volunteering within your community, there must be a few hours you can spare to help build a healthy and vibrant community for everyone to enjoy.

I would like to take a few moments and bring to your attention one particular non-profit organization in Colchester County which recently made a presentation to County Council. They are the North Colchester River Restoration Association (NCRRA). They have been working on restoration projects in the Waugh's and French River watersheds for the last 14 years. The NCRRA is recognized as one of Nova Scotia's leading habitat restoration volunteer groups who has given advice to many other similar groups and worked with government's agencies and universities on matters relating to the ecology of their watershed. They improve the aquatic environment by building strategically placed timber and rock structures within the watershed and placed large amounts of Amour Rock to stabilize the river bank.

In addition to all this, they are also responsible for an ongoing tree planting program in the riparian area. The direct result of doing so is

they have enhanced the spawning habitat for migratory fish, most importantly the Atlantic salmon.

Through a partnership project with the Millbrook First Nation they have been able to build and manage their own salmon hatchery on the Waugh's River. To date they have released 75-Thousand fish back into the water course. Today you can see salmon swimming in every pool from Tatamagouche to Earltown in the Waugh's River and at the very top of Warwick Mountain on the French River. These Atlantic salmon are an endangered species in Nova Scotia but because of lots of support and thousands of volunteer hours they are increasing in numbers in parts Colchester County.

The County of Colchester has been a proud supporter of this organization and its dedicated volunteers for many years and will continue to do so for this and many more much needed non-profits in our County.

If anyone is interested in volunteering in Colchester County and don't know how to get started or you want to know what Associations or groups are in need of Volunteers don't hesitate to call your local Councillor, MLA or MP. I can guarantee they all know of organizations in your area looking for a little help. You will feel great about helping to make a difference and get to meet some really good people at the same time.

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

Community Grants Program Applications Due March 7TH

The Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia administers a Community Grants Program to support individuals and organizations province-wide to undertake programs or services that will benefit the mental health of individuals throughout Nova Scotia. The amount of money designated for the Community Grants Program is set each year by the Foundation's Board of Trustees and dispersed in three installments. Examples of Community Grants Program projects include advocacy and anti-stigma programs, educational opportunities and pilot or demonstration projects.

Please visit www.mentalhealthns.ca, and click 'What We Do' to read criteria guidelines and download an application form. Information on previously funded projects is also available at this link. The deadline for all submissions is 4:30 pm Friday, March 7th, 2014. For any additional questions or for more information, please call the Foundation at 902-464.6000.



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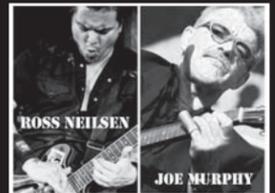
"Story Teller Extraordinaire!"

Thursday, March 6



Splash N' Boots

Sunday, March 9
"As seen on TreeHouse!"



Joe Murphy & Ross Neilsen

Friday, March 14

"Beat the winter blues!"

Evans & Doherty

Sunday, March 16

"May the luck of the Irish be with you!"



Guy Davis

Friday, April 4

"The ultimate bluesman!"

Eleanor McCain & Matt Dusk

Sunday, April 6

"Romantic love songs"



David Myles

Friday, April 11

"Juno Award Winner!"

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at the First United Church
December 11



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