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# The Shoreline Journal

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Gary Burrill was chosen leader of Nova Scotia's NDP at its leadership convention in Halifax on February 27th. He beat out former cabinet minister, Dave Wilson and Lenore Zann, MLA, Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River. The NDP holds six seats in the legislature after losing to Stephen McNeil's Liberals in the 2013 election.



## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS March 2016

**RETRACEMENT:** On the front page of last month's issue, we incorrectly stated Councillor Doug MacInnes had held a community meeting in Debert on January 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss several issues pertaining to District 9 and that highway littering was discussed. This was incorrect. A meeting was not planned nor held. It was a matter of mis-communication. During a conversation, Councillor MacInnes was talking about a meeting of the Lower Onslow Community Centre on January 17<sup>th</sup> and I misrepresented the facts. My apology is extended to Councillor MacInnes, Mayor Taylor, councillors and staff at the Municipality of Colchester. In addition I wish to apologize to residents of the Debert area who may have wondered why they were not advised of a community meeting. I AM SORRY.

**Unknown subscriber:** Someone intended to renew a subscription via a Scotiabank Money order from 7 Inglis Place, Truro for which we are grateful. However, there is a problem. Neither the plain envelope nor the money order contained the person's name. If you visited the bank on January 28<sup>th</sup> and purchased Money Order # 405103, please let us know so we can continue sending each issue for the next year.

**On April 1,** Nova Scotia's minimum wage is increasing in line with the cost of living. Government accepted the Minimum Wage Review Committee's recommendation to increase the minimum wage by 10 cents, to \$10.70 an hour. The minimum wage for someone who has less than three months' experience will also increase by 10 cents an hour, to \$10.20. Minimum wage rates are adjusted annually, and are based on the previous year's national Consumer Price Index.

**Break and enters** into sheds and cars in Folly Mountain on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Colchester County RCMP are encouraging anyone who believe they may be missing items or suspect they are victim of a crime to contact the Bible Hill office at (902) 893-6820.

**Nova Scotians are** once again getting the chance to further their study of Gaelic language and culture in Scotland. Now in its fourth year, the bursary program supports Nova Scotians attending language training in Scotland with travel, meal and accommodation or distance learning costs. The program is funded by the Scottish Government and administered by Gaelic Affairs. For more information about applying to the bursary program, contact Lewis MacKinnon at 902-424-4298 or [lewis.mackinnon@novascotia.ca](mailto:lewis.mackinnon@novascotia.ca)

**Shortly after 2:00 am** on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 members of the Colchester County RCMP responded to a complaint of a suspicious person believed to be rummaging through cars on Hidden Valley Drive, in Valley, Nova Scotia. RCMP located and arrested

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## Province Halts Senior's Premium Changes

*By Maurice Rees*

Many of our readers would have been affected by the proposed premium changes in the Senior's Pharmacare Program. However, many of them don't have other sources of print media, so we

wanted to update everyone. By the time of this reading, many will have already heard the province is halting planned premium increases to the Seniors' Pharmacare program and plans a full consultation with seniors across

the province..

In a press release issued on February 18<sup>th</sup>, Premier Stephen McNeil said, "Seniors told us these changes were too much, too soon - our actions had unintended consequences. We have listened.

We will consult with seniors from one end of the province to the other to ensure their thoughts are heard before we make changes in the future."

Premier McNeil said premiums will not go up from last year. The maximum premium payment will remain at \$424 a year per person.

One change will proceed: more low income seniors will have their premiums reduced or eliminated.

This means about 12,000 people who paid a Pharmacare premium in 2015 will not pay one in 2016. Overall, every Nova Scotian who belongs to the program will pay the same premium or less.

Seniors on a guaranteed income supplement will continue to be exempt from paying premiums and the co-payment will remain at 30 per cent per prescription to a maximum of \$382 per year.

Today's changes are expected to cost government about an additional \$3 million a year.

"We had put forward changes that were intended to bring more fairness and equity to the program," said Premier McNeil. "It is clear that Nova Scotians want more consultation before significant changes are introduced to this program. We will deliver."



Karlee Burgess, shown with her Gold Medal won at the Youth Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. Karlee shot 2nd stone on the Canadian Mary Fay team. See more photos, and a special note from the Truro Curling Club, exclusively in the Shoreline Journal, on page 2.

## Hospitality Centre Wins \$371,983.60 Contract

*By Maurice Rees*

Air Cadet Gliders are not the only thing returning to Debert in 2016. Debert Hospitality Centre has been successful in winning a \$371,983.60 contract with the Department of Defense Contract to provide accommodations and food service for the annual summer program which has been located at the Debert Airfield since 1985.

Aaron Bower, Senior Communications Advisor, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Halifax office has advised the Shoreline Journal the the value of the contract is \$371 983.60 the period of work is from April 1, 2016 up to and including March 31, 2017

with the option to extend the contract for one additional one-year period.

The air cadet gliders will be back in Debert area skies again in 2016 after being paused last August while changes were made to the aircraft maintenance program following a routine flight-safety, operational and technical airworthiness audit and evaluation by the Defence Department and the Canadian Armed Forces.

There were no problems with the gliders or the tow aircraft, but there was a change in the maintenance program at facilities in Greenwood and Debert, which included updating procedures and modernizing software used for the aircraft

maintenance system.

The Air Cadet Gliding Program saw its beginnings at Penhold, Alberta in 1965, because familiarization flying for Air Cadets with the RCAF was being curtailed due to reduction of the numbers of Regular Force and Reserve Aircraft.

In the Atlantic Region, the Regional Gliding School began at CFB Greenwood in 1970 with two gliders and one winch. In 1973 the School operated from Summerside, PEI. In 1975 the school was moved to Waterville, NS; in 1978 and 1979 the school was operated from both Stephenville, NF and Waterville, NS and returned to Waterville in

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## Woman Found Guilty of Solid Waste Infraction

A Colchester County resident was found guilty in Nova Scotia Provincial Court on December 17, 2015 for permitting the act of illegal dumping of solid waste. Maxine Ruth Ann Blenkhorn, 20, with the last known address of 35 Johnson Ave. in Bible Hill was found guilty in Provincial Court under the Municipal Government Act for permitting the act of illegal dumping of solid waste in an unapproved location.

The Municipality of Colchester had charged Ms. Blenkorn with the offense that took place in the spring of 2014 after household waste from Bible Hill was dumped on private property off of the Camden Rd. near Middle Stewiacke. The fine imposed by the Court was \$233.95.

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