

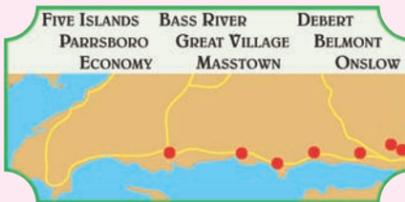
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## Cannabis an Economic Engine?

By Maurice Rees

Might the legalization of Cannabis later this year be a possible source of economic growth for Colchester County? Councillor Wade Parker wants to find out.

At council meeting on February 23rd, Parker said he was not speaking in favour of Cannabis, but since it's going to be legalized and there will be several growing facilities required might Debert, with an

airport, lots of land be a potential site for additional facilities.

He referred council to two upcoming conferences, one in Saint John, NB and another in British Columbia and of the two he would suggest the Na-

tional Cannabis Conference in Victoria, BC in late April as it will be a larger convention. It was his suggestion the matter should be explored, possibly the county should send representatives and if possible have a booth.

If the county was to proceed, he said he'd be willing to spend a weekend in a booth explaining the benefits of Debert. Council asked staff to investigate and report back to council.

## NSPE Without Staff

By Maurice Rees

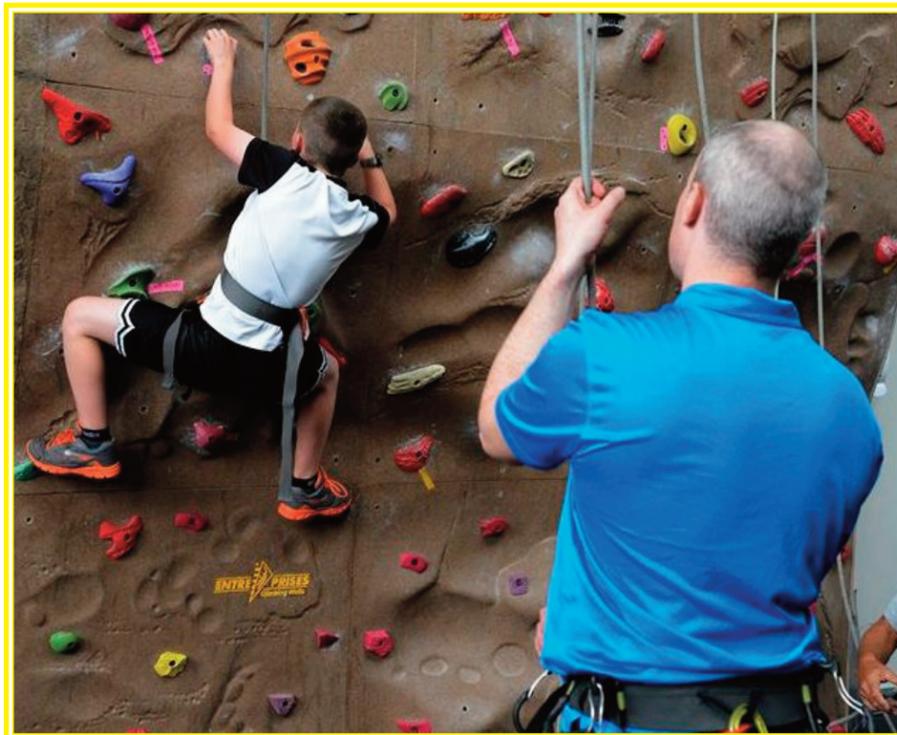
NSPE and Truro Raceway are without staff as result of an announcement on Friday, February 23rd all staff at Truro Raceway had been dismissed. The sudden announcement also included Joe Nicholson, NSPE general manager. Nicholson has been replaced by business consultant, Darrelyn Hubley, who delivered layoff notices to staff.

It is not clear who will operate the facility, but raceway operations are going to be split from the exhibition commission. The horsemen's association will be renting the raceway from the provincial exhibition. Racing has been scheduled to resume in April. Further details are expected to be forthcoming from Agriculture Minister, Keith Colwell's office in the coming weeks. The advisory board which Colwell had put in place in recent years has also been relieved of responsibilities.

Preliminary details indicate the Truro Raceway will be managed by the Truro Harness Horse Owners Association, who will be renting the track, stables and related facilities from the NSPE for \$200 per month.

The NSPE Commission has a debt of \$1 million, of which approximately \$500,000 is owed to the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. On a weekly basis the cost has been approximately \$20,000 when everything is considered including overhead and wages.

Colwell has stated all local suppliers will be paid and he's looking forward to being able to meet with local municipal officials to set out a plan for the NSPE's long-term future.



A great way to enjoy March Break is to try something new. Rock climbing at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre offers a good work out and lots of fun. See more March Break activities on page 12. (Submitted)

## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS March 2018

**Stress Relief: Death:** After Bob died, everyone gathered at his funeral. Then the minister started to speak: "He was a model husband, a decent man, a terrific father..." The widow then makes a motion for her son to come to her. "What is it mother?" he whispers. "Dear, go check the casket, I think we're at the wrong funeral."

**Chief Bob Gloade,** Millbrook, is recuperating at home after suffering a massive heart attack after playing hockey at the Brookfield Rink on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Three zaps from a defibrillator were administered to bring him back prior to being transported to the QEII in Halifax. He says the event has caused him to ensure he changes his eating and exercise habits, including giving up smoking.

**Susan McCallum** has been appointed Executive Director of Colchester Community Workshops replacing Don Hoadley who retired in January. "We would like to congratulate Susan on her appointment and look forward to working with her in the years ahead to continue to grow this great organization" said Dave Mills, Chair of the Board. McCallum served as the Operations Manager since 2009, and has been with the Colchester Community Workshops since 1989. The Colchester Community Workshops provides service to 80 clients with intellectual disabilities, operating nine programs. Some of these programs include Buttons and Ribbons production, the New-to-You Store, the Intercolonial Café, and the Community Employment program.

**Deputy Premier Karen Casey,** on behalf of Premier Stephen McNeil, met with Atlantic premiers and federal ministers serving on the Atlantic Growth Strategy leadership committee to discuss progress and next steps on the strategy. The meeting was held at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel, Moncton on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## Alton Gas Posting Trespassing Signs

Rebecca Cope-Moore says, "The RCMP officers come with Alton Gas when they try to do work or hang up signs like these ones. They are protecting Alton Gas's interests more than they are protecting us as peaceful water protectors and treaty rights holders". She was referring to Alton Gas posting signs outside the Treaty Camp at the Shubenacadie River naming water

protectors on site as trespassers and criminals.

Grassroots Mi'kmaq water protectors have been holding down a protection camp at the Shubenacadie River for nine months to prevent Alton Gas from dumping thousands of tons of salt brine into the sacred river every day. They are outraged by Alton Gas' bully tactics and intent to resume work on the project without al-

lowing Sipekne'katik to complete its community consultation process.

The Alton Gas project proposes to create two salt caverns by solution mining an existing salt deposit, dumping the salt brine in the Shubenacadie River, and filling the resulting caverns with gas. The company's mixing channel, designed to mix the brine into the river

continued on page 9

## Truro Sports Heritage Society Awards Dinner

By Donald Cameron

The public is invited to attend the annual Truro Sports Heritage Society Awards Dinner Sunday, March 4 at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel. The event will recognize the many outstanding 2017 athletic achievements by local athletes and teams as well as deserving coaches and volunteers. Athletes of various ages from 12 to 93 will be honoured from a wide variety of sporting activities and backgrounds.

Hosting the event will be

Bruce Rainnie, the well-known former CBC TV commentator and sports announcer. This past year Bruce became the Executive Director for the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. Recently Bruce travelled to Korea where he again took on the challenge of providing CBC TV Olympic sports action coverage in the Pyeongchang Olympics. Bruce will speak at the awards dinner about his experience of covering the Olympics and the various interesting experiences he has

had with athletes and competitions from around the globe.

Tickets are \$25 for students and \$40 for adults. The deadline for ordering tickets is February 27. Tables of ten are available for group purchase. Groups that would like to sit together are encouraged to make the arrangements as soon as possible as the event usually sells out.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Sara at 1-902-957-0084 or sara\_mckenna@hotmail.com



Dietitian Nathalie Roy shows Paul Scothorn a simple smoothie chart for healthier eating, one of the many resources available at the Dairy Farmers of Canada information booth. See our exclusive coverage of the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia's Annual General Meeting on page 18 and 19.

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