

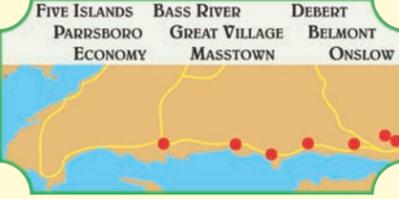
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Could You Wait an Hour for an Ambulance!

Emergency 911...

By Linda Harrington
No one EVER wants this to happen during an emergency but there could be times when our communities are without immediate ambulance coverage.

Recent tweets from the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE Local 727), which represents Paramedics in Nova Scotia, indicate a severe ambulance shortage in the province.

The tweets are referenced as "Code Critical", and in an effort to draw attention to the dire situation, they list areas in

the Province without ambulances available at any given time..

"#CodeCritical at 3:30PM in Northern Zone with 0 units available in Colchester County and Cumberland County", "#Code Critical at 5pm in Northern Zone with no units available between Antigonish and Pugwash", were just two of numerous tweets made recently. The tweets continue listing over and over the shortages across the province.

This is not a new situation. The Province commissioned the "Fitch Report" three years ago to look at ways to improve ambulance service but to date

it has not been released.

The Emergency Health Services (EHS) web page states there are over 1000 paramedics registered in the province with EHS providing both ground emergency response and Life Flight helicopters.

A paramedic, who wishes to remain anonymous, says they are assigned 12-hour shifts, working a 4 days on, 4 days off schedule but these shifts often run overtime. "It is difficult to even get time for a lunch break during your shift and many days you work 15 hours straight." This would make for a very long day for

anyone but even more so for someone already working a stress filled shift.

Michael Nickerson, IUOE 727 Business Manager, who was a paramedic for close to 19 years, knows personally how this situation is affecting the paramedics. "These availability issues take a toll on paramedics mentally and emotionally. We get into this line of work to help people. When there are calls waiting that they can't get to, or they're on their way to an emergency call from an outside area, that weighs on them heavily."

EHS requires two paramedics for each ambulance on a shift. If only one paramedic is available, they are paired with another half-staffed truck. This could be one reason there are shortages, but

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS March 2021

Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce relocates
The offices of the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is now located at: 105B Walker St., Truro, NS, B2N 4B1 and will offer an array of additional services for members.

Eastville, Highway 289 reduced to one lane
On Highway 289 in Colchester County, about 7 kilometres northeast of the junction with Highway 336, will be reduced to one lane until April 19 for repairs to the cross culvert.

Newfoundland surge causes mandatory testing
With Covid-19 surging in Newfoundland on February 21, the Nova Scotia implemented mandatory for travellers who are exempt from self-isolation in Nova Scotia when they arrive by ferry from Newfoundland and Labrador. Testing will take place at the Marine Atlantic ferry terminal in North Sydney. Other passengers are welcome to get tested.

Viola Desmond's Official \$26 Repayment Cheque Photo
A framed copy of the official \$26 fine and court cost repayment cheque issued to the family of Viola Desmond on February 3rd is available at:
<https://novascotia.ca/news/photos/2021/02/03/desmond/>

Incorrect Address
In last month's while explaining Karen Casey's historic political life, it was incorrectly stated her birthplace was Carr's Brook. That was wrong. It should have been listed as Truro. Our apologies.

Special Move Permits Available for Forestry Sector
Forestry contractors looking to move wood or equipment over short distances on provincial roads can apply for special move permits prior to spring weight restrictions taking effect. This is a short-term measure to help keep people in the forestry sector working. The Department of Transportation will allow some use of provincial roads on a case-by-case basis, based on road and weather conditions. Persisting and cold weather overnight may support safe transport. Applications are being accepted early to ensure that special move permit applications can be assessed prior to the commencement of spring weight restrictions on February 28. Contractors are encouraged to complete these applications as soon as possible. For inquiries on the permitting process, contact the operations contact centre at 1-844-696-7737.



Llewellyn and Solomon Purves-Smith enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies following the snowshoeing at MacElmons Pond as part of the Fundy Shore Winter Carnival. More carnival photos can be found on page 12. (Harrington Photo)

Taggart to Seek Federal Nomination

By Maurice Rees
Touting experience and small town roots Tom Taggart has announced will seek the nomination to carry the Conservative Party of Canada banner in the federal riding of Cumberland-Colchester in the next federal election. Taggart said as a lifelong Conservative and twelve year Colchester County Councillor for the District bordering on Cumberland County, he knows both counties well.

The election is expected to be called within a year. He hopes to follow in the footsteps of his mother, a well-respected community leader who worked as an educator and tireless community volunteer in the family's home community of Bass River.

Having spent the past six years as one of four elected municipal leaders from Nova Scotia on the Board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Taggart says he's proud to have stood up on behalf of small towns and rural communities across Canada - always through the lens of the communities he loves in Cumberland-Colchester.

As part of his announcement Taggart says his rural roots have served him well during his leadership positions on the national board, so while he's very familiar with

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Branding Package to be Developed

By Maurice Rees
The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark currently does not have a robust Branding Policy and Package, but it is something which has been identified as something which needs to be developed and implemented sooner rather than later.

Travel restrictions are still in place affecting international travel or residents from across Canada are prohibited entering Nova Scotia. Even though the pandemic has continued to surge in certain areas across Canada Cliffs of Fundy staff and many volunteer commit-

tees continue to prepare for more favourable times, when restrictions are lifted.

It is anticipated designing and producing signage will happen soon. Under consideration is interpretive panels at geosites, as well as, considering the existing kiosk signage that is in place and additional sights in high traffic areas on the 100 series highways. Many committee members feel there are potential opportunities to collaborate on community signage.

A number of the committees will undertake discus-

sions that include: Interpretive, safety, Leave No Trace messaging and educational Messaging. Other topics for consideration are: Mapping, Graphics/Photos and variety of Languages.



Horses in the Harrison's paddock don't mind winter weather as long as it is not freezing rain. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

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