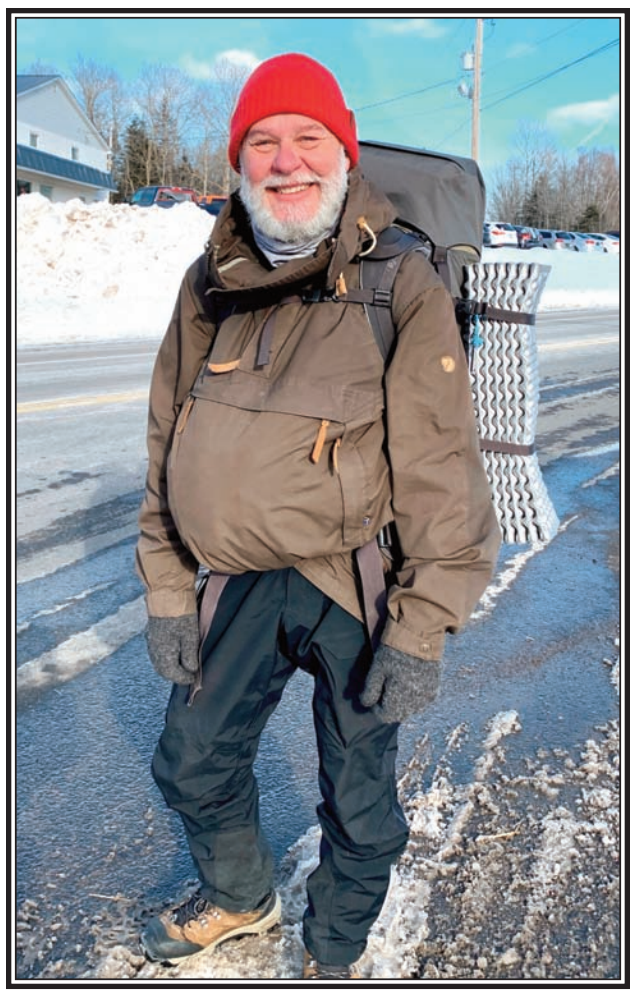
56 Year Old Walking Across Canada



Tony Holtkamp. 56, has embarked on an initiative to walk across Canada. He is photographed here in Glenholme on Trunk 4. During heavy rainstorms in mid-February he pitched his tent and hunkered down in the woods in Glenholme. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

While going about my daily errands the first of February, I encountered a man with a white beard and a backpack walking along the streets in Truro.

I mentioned this to a friend, adding there must be a story here. The next day I receive a text saying she is sure the same man (based on my elaborated description of a white beard and backpack) is now walking along Highway 2 in Masstown.

I don't usually approach strangers but since he crossed my path yet again, and now just a few kilometers from my house, I just had to stop and talk to him. I expected he was on his way to the hostel in Wentworth or someplace close by since we had been enduring frigid cold temperatures. I was shocked to learn he was on his way to Victoria, BC!

Tony Holtkamp is a 56-year-old adventurer who lives in an off-grid tiny house in British Columbia. He recently left a full-time job and decided it was time to "embark on the greatest adventure of my life". His plan is to walk across Canada, from Newfoundland to British Columbia in ten months, averaging over 25 km each day and sleeping in a tent along the way.

Tony prepared for his trip by walking three to five hours daily and giving up caffeine and alcohol.

He planned to start his journey in Signal Hill, Newfoundland on January 1st, 2022 but Covid rules for isolation delayed his start by a few days. You can follow his daily bog beginning in Newfoundland on his website **www.tonyholtkamp.com**

The ferry to Nova Scotia gave Tony a nice warm bunk for the night. He arrived in Sydney on January 21st and then enjoyed pleasant weather for his first 25 km walk in our beautiful Province. It must be noted the weather for the first few weeks of February in Nova Scotia was very challenging, even for those with a roof over our heads. I can't imagine what Tony went through trying to walk over 25km/day and then sleeping in a tent. Some of his blog posts reflect the physical and emotional challenges.

I met up with Tony on February 2nd walking along Highway 4 in Glenholme. He told me he was headed for Victoria and told me to check his webpage for information. I didn't want to hold him up as dusk was approaching and I expected he might be heading to the Hostel for the night.

I went home and spent some time reading Tony's blog and I was amazed! He was sleeping most nights in a tiny little tent on the side of the road after walking for hours along snow covered slushy roads. He couldn't carry much food or water as it would freeze in his pack. I immediately wished I had chatted more with him and at least offered him food and shelter for the night.

The next day it poured rain and I couldn't get Tony's adventure out of my head. I made a pot of soup and decided to track him down, driving through the Wentworth Valley. There as no sign of him anywhere but when I read his blog post that night, he said he had hunkered down in his tent (no location disclosed).

The next day was even more brutal, relentless freezing rain for hours and I went out again looking for Tony or even his tent but with no luck. The ironic part of my searching came to light when I read his blog post two days later. He posted a video as he made his way out of the area, and it was recorded from the end of my driveway. Tony had been held up for two days in our woods. If I had yelled his name, he probably would have heard me! But I guess our second encounter was not meant to be.

At the time of this writing, Tony has made it safely to Frederiction, NB. He has taken a bus now and then, and occasionally stays in a hotel. He admits starting his journey on the East coast in the midst of winter may not have been a great idea but when he writes a book it will sure make for an interesting read.

MLAs are Loving Our Trails

MLAs across Nova Scotia are loving our trails, according to Hike Nova Scotia. The provincial organization issued the #LoveOurTrailsNS challenge to MLAs at the beginning of February. It asked them to get out onto a local trail, snap a photo and share on social media with the #LoveOurTrailsNS hashtag to show that they support trails.

"It was slow to get started because we had some challenging weather in the first half of February," says Hike NS executive director Janet Barlow. "But after this beautiful weekend, we'll be adding several more MLAs to the map who have committed to take the challenge."

The #LoveOurTrailsNS map, showing which MLAs have taken the challenge, is starting to fill up with hearts representing MLAs. Click on a heart to view the name and constituency of an MLA along with the photo they posted on social media. All parties are represented, including one party leader. The entire PC party caucus was recently challenged by one of its own to take the challenge.

During the pandemic, Nova Scotians flocked to the trails in record numbers to hike. Hike NS says the government has a role to play in better supporting trails and hiking. Trails are a place where we go for physical activity, to relieve stress, to support our mental health and to commune with nature. Walking is the top physical activity of Nova Scotians. Hiking is one of the top three outdoor tourist activities.

Hike NS says MLAs can act within government to increase funding for community volunteer trail groups, increase funding for trails in provincial parks and protected areas, protect more wilderness areas and support the provincial Trail Strategy. Hike NS represents the largest group of trail users in the province. There are more hikers using trails than all other trail users combined.

The group is asking each Nova Scotian who loves trails to personally invite their own MLA to take the #LoveOurTrailsNS challenge found at **www.hikenovascotia.ca/news-and-events-love-our-trails**.

Colchester
be centred here.

Basin to Reconstruct Barry Avenue Sidewalk

By Maurice Rees

Basin Contracting was awarded reconstruction of Barry Avenue Sidewalk for the price of $185,575, excluding HST. Council approved a $20,000 contingency in addition to the contract value. 14 companies requested tender documents, but only three bids were submitted. When opened the bids were: Basin Contracting, $185,575; Dexter Construction, $185,900 and BD Clifton Contracting, $194,825.

MLA Dave Ritcey had publically stated he is working on repaving the street and is making progress. Public works will consult with NSTIR to see if the two projects can be done at the same time.

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