

Notes from our Municipal Council - District 10
We are struggling day by day

We are living in a worldwide pandemic. In a world where many are struggling day by day with a variety of issues it is important to remember that kindness goes a long way and we may never know what burden someone carrying. If you have read any of the literature on my Victoria Lomond Colchester County District 10 Municipal Councillor facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaLomondForDistrict10/>) you will quickly learn that my motto is be kind to everyone no matter what.

Our lives continue to be peppered with situations that are new and unknown, challenging and emotionally charged. Be kind to each other and be gentle with yourself. Everyone is simply trying to do their best in a world that tests our resilience and strength, whether that is getting out of bed today, tackling something on your to do list, work commitments or family responsibilities. We are in this together.

There are resources available to support the journey of Nova Scotians. 211 is a system that can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 on any telephone or visiting <https://ns.211.ca/> via the internet. I have personally used this informational resource before, I have found it to be user friendly and was able to seek support for what I was looking for. There is also a great resource at <https://kidshelp-phone.ca/> for children to access support or by calling 1-800-668-6868.

On Monday February 28, 2022 through March 2, 2022 I was proud to help with a support initiative for Colchester community members set up at Victoria Hall in Bass River. A community greeter provided introductions to a navigator assigned by the province who was available at Victoria hall to support community members access support during these three days.

Colchester County staff in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia offered this support centre to anyone who found themselves needing support during the days the Mass Casualty Commission presented information about the events that took place in Portapique in April 2020. There are very few Nova Scotians

who do not live with some sort of impact of those tremendous fateful days. The staff at Colchester County Municipal office went above and beyond in the organization and facilitation of this support centre and my hope is that community members were able to find information to provide solace.



Victoria Lomond

This past month there have been a number of items at our council table that I found to be difficult to make a decision on, in a world full of "grey tones" we are often forced to make a decision that is "black or white". The COVID-19 vaccination policy was one of these such items. I am proud of Colchester County Municipal Councillors, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and staff for having such fulsome and educated conversations about this very important issue.

My vote on February 24th was developed by listening to the constituents in Colchester County, and my own personal experience with the COVID-19 virus. Please know your voices matter - sharing your thoughts with councillors on these very important issues. Your opinion helps elected officials make these life changing decisions. Contact information for our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all County Councillors can be found at www.colchester.ca or by calling (902) 897-3160.

I will leave you with an exciting bit of news: Sally Richard of Londonderry celebrated her 80th birthday on February 19th of this year. It was a pure delight and my complete honour to present Sally with a certificate from our Mayor, Christine Blair, congratulating Sally on her 80 years. Happy Birthday Sally!! If you know of anyone celebrating an important milestone please reach out to myself at vlomond@colchester.ca or give me a jingle at (902) 890-1493 and I will ensure a certificate of congratulations makes it's way to the celebration.

Be well and stay safe!
Victoria Lomond is District 10 Councillor for Municipality of the County of Colchester and can be reached at: vlomond@colchester.ca

Colchester Council shelves Vaccination Policy for Staff

At the February 24th monthly meeting of Colchester council the report and recommendation of Council Committee Meeting Held on February 10, 2022 were approved which included: Community Energy and Emissions Plan as presented; Requests to Purchase Recreational Lands, Princeton Heights was approved for the Evergreen Drive property (PID 20436044) and that the Spruce Drive property (PID 20259727) be retained by the Municipality; Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy was approved as presented. (See story elsewhere).

Another items from the committee meeting included the Council Proceedings Policy Amendments for Council Proceedings and Committees Policy was approved as presented

Covid-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy development which has been ongoing for two years, council decided with mandates ending in March, it would not adopt the policy,

but know that after a lot of staff time and research had gone into the proposed policy. The policy had been approved at the committee meeting on February 10th, but the rapid decline in cases and hospitalizations, and government's announcement mandates would end on March 21, councillors decided to put the matter on the shelf. Solicitor Dennis James was asked on several occasions for advise. Essentially instead of making a decision should the pandemic come back with a resurgence, council decided to kick the ball down the road for another day.

Truro Horsemen's Club seeking back taxes to 2019 has placed council in a rough spot from what they would like to do, compared to what they legally can do. The Municipal Governance Act (MGA) prohibits council from making a decision to accommodate the club's request. It is expected the matter will be back on the table to perhaps find a way to give the Horseman's Club a special grant, with-

out making the municipality vulnerable to similar requests from other organizations.

The Debert Business Park Advisory Committee (DBPAC) met on February 2nd, 2022 and have approached council with suggested modifications to better serve the Committee's needs. They were seeking council's approval on four matters, which were approved, while councillors Boutilier and Cooper voted against.

The approved requests included: The DBPAC membership include three (rather than two) representatives of the Debert Business Park business community; the DBPAC membership include three (rather than one) residents of Colchester, who have no ownership interest in any businesses in the park; DBPAC shall meet as required and at least three six times per year, rather than three times per year and committee members must be available to meet via in person meetings or virtually.



The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Xplornet Communications Inc., Canada's largest rural-focused broadband provider

Xplornet Communications Inc, the company chosen by Cumberland and Colchester to build the boardband service in a \$62.4-Million contract has been selected to connect over 1,300 homes and businesses in Sundre, Alberta to a next-generation fibre-to-the-premise network. Once the project is completed, Sundre residents and businesses will be able to benefit from gigabit speeds on a fibre network designed to meet their connectivity needs today and into the future.

Notice of Intent to Amend the By-laws

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce will vote on By-law Amendments at its Annual General Meeting on March 9, 2022. During a Board of Directors' meeting held on Sept. 8, 2021, the Board passed the proposed amendments.

The proposed revision is to reduce the minimum number of non-executive board members from 10 to six people.

Present version - ARTICLE V - BOARD, OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

5.1.1 The president, first vice-president, second vice-president, treasurer, the Chamber solicitor and at least ten (10) other members shall be elected from among the members each year at the annual general meeting and shall form the Board.

Amended version - ARTICLE V - BOARD, OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

5.1.1 The president, first vice-president, second vice-president, treasurer, the Chamber solicitor and at least six (6) other members shall be elected from among the members each year at the annual general meeting and shall form the Board.

For more information contact Sherry Martell, Executive Director, Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, 902-895-6328 or email ed@tcchamber.ca.

Chamber's Member 2 Member Program

Members of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Chamber, you gain access to many benefit programs that can save you or your company money. You can recover the cost of your membership many times over just by taking advantage of this benefit.

Members are encouraged to join the Chamber's growing list of members who participate in the Member-to-Member Discount program promoting shop local!

It's easy - just tell us what discount you would like to offer to other members. We'll do the rest!

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