

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Funding for Community Generators

The Province is providing \$5.8 million to help 180 community organizations through the Community Generator Program. The program helps groups purchase and install generators at community centres so the centres are able to serve as a gathering space during power outages. "We know how important community centres are across this province," said Pat Dunn, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. "We want to make sure centres are ready to support their communities in times of need." The Province created the fund in September after Fiona and increased it by \$4 million in December to meet community demand. Tom Taggart, MLA sent a broadcast email to groups in Colchester North to make them aware of the program and applications for the 2023-24 Community Generator Program would close on February 14.

Community Newspapers are still alive

Those who have predicted the demise of newspaper at the hands of social media need to adjust their train of thought. Many smaller community newspapers are seeing a small trend of increased subscription orders and increased newsstand sales. It seems as we escaped CoVid-19, people started to join the "buy local campaign". Maurice Rees, publisher, recently wrote, since end of November, when some of the daily newspapers stopped delivering single copy subscriptions to homes and smaller country stores in rural areas, we have noticed an increase in subscription orders to be delivered by mail, and significant increase in individual store sales. He continued, we're having a problem keeping copies in the stores. Some store sales have more than doubled in just two months. In the last month of subscription orders received approximately 40% have been new readers who want paper delivered to their home. Rees continued his remarks by stating, late fall we advised readers, we "will not ignore them, and will continue to deliver our monthly issue direct to their homes via Canada Post". He concluded we will work equally as hard to add quantities to allotments left at the approximately 30 stores where the paper is sold.

African Heritage Month Celebrations

A virtual celebration was held, January 23, marking the launch of African Heritage Month with a provincial proclamation and poster unveiling. The month recognizes and highlights the contributions of African Nova Scotians throughout the province's history. "The theme of African Heritage Month 2023 reminds us that the history of African Nova Scotian communities is defined by strength and determination," said Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc. "As a province, we celebrate the legacy and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present. Their lives and journeys have made a significant influence on our collective provincial identity; their stories will be shared and remembered for generations to come." This year's theme, Seas of Struggle - African Peoples from Shore to Shore, recognizes the resilience, strength, determination and impact of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia, with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. The theme recognizes people of African descent as global architects and designers of civilization, advancement and change.

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My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she's ever met. I'm not buying it.

Guardian

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increases. "How am I going to put gas in the car, food on the table. Oil in the oil tank?" It's more expensive to live in our rural areas, where there is no public transportation and limited options when it comes to other services. We will continue to address those issues. **Constituency work.** In discussion with my staff, we are developing a model that will see the creation of a 'Town Hall' series, which will enable me to meet with small groups of constituents throughout Cumberland-Colchester, on a regular basis.

This is the way our system works at its best. Participatory democracy, through communication at the grassroots level, presents an opportunity for everyone to provide me with input necessary to better serve as your Member of Parliament.

Spending time in the riding and working with constituents is important.

During two break weeks - I participated in an event with the Amherst & Area Chamber of Commerce, Mi'kmaw Dinner in Millbrook, an afternoon visiting people and businesses in Parrsboro, and catching up and meeting with constituents who wish to share their concerns.

Parliamentary work. I held an informative session with Yoram Abisror, director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. Also on February 7, I

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But our focus remains on retaining the workforce continuing care assistants and nurses working in the province. We're doing exactly that. We've offered free tuition and books for CCA students and a long-needed pay increase for working CCAs.

Recently we hit a milestone - the 1,000th free tuition CCA bursary was awarded. We're well on track to hit our target of 2,000 students in the first two years of this program. We've also invested in recruitment within Canada and overseas, like our recent suc-

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The Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity receiving \$50,000 will use provincial funding to offer community tours, prepare welcome packages, attend recruitment events and help new doctors with site visits, housing, employment for their partners and social events for doctors looking for a new place to practice.

On behalf of Michelle Thompson, Minister responsible for the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment, I delivered the following remarks: "The Truro-Colchester region is the most central location in the province. We have a vibrant and active community with all the amenities that a family can ask for. We have so much to offer healthcare workers. This funding will help the community make that case to doctors who are considering a move."

I also said, "We'll be able to support our strong local team in

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that Colchester lost a huge supporter this month. I wish to offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of former Mayor Bob Taylor. I have heard wonderful things of Mr. Taylor.

welcomed representatives from Pallium Canada, a non-profit organization that focuses on improving standards on long-term care.

I was interviewed as part of television network CPAC's media panel on healthcare policy.

Dr. Alik Lafontaine, president of the Canadian Medical Association and I held a healthy discussion February 9. Also, I met, once again, Dr. Lynn Tomkins from the Canadian Dental Association and representatives who are concerned with Canada's lack of a rare disease strategy.

Regarding committee work - the Standing Committee on Health has finished its report on Healthcare Human Resources and will be tabled in the House and they continue its work studying the important subject of children's health.

Time with the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) committee has been completed and its work was presented in the House of Commons.

It is an honour. Lastly, I am honoured to have been awarded the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal, presented by Nova Scotia Lieutenant-Governor Arthur J. LeBlanc at a January 24 ceremony.

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2683, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

cessful trip to Kenya.

I've made it clear since taking office that we will explore every opportunity to improve healthcare for Nova Scotians. I know more work needs to be done, but we are committed to doing whatever it takes to provide you and your loved ones with the care you need, when and where you need it.

Premier Tim Houston

Hon Tim Houston is premier of Nova Scotia and can be reached at: PREMIER@novascotia.ca

building on the great work they are doing to ensure people in our area have access to the healthcare they need."

The funding is from the government's new Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment Community Fund. A total of 28 groups across Nova Scotia applied by the December 19 deadline, and more successful applicants will be notified in the coming weeks.

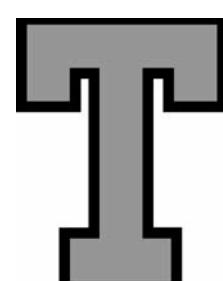
The fund, worth \$2 million in total, is among the recruitment and retention initiatives outlined in Action for Health, the Province's plan to improve healthcare.

A new session of the Legislature will open on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. I will be in Halifax most of the time, but staff at my office will be available to assist you Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.

We can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

As always, I am happy to hear from you.

Victoria Lomond is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10 and can be reached at 902-890-1493 or vломond@colchester.ca



Pictured is Truro Junior A Bearcat goalie, Jack Milner with skaters who enjoyed skating with the Bearcats during the Long John Winter Festival annual event, Skate With The Bearcats.

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