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# The Shoreline Journal

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## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS March 2025

**Kevin Dewolfe**, 67, of Truro and **Kaylyn Brooks**, 36, of Sipekne'katik, have both been charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking. They were released on conditions and are scheduled to appear in Shubenacadie Provincial Court on April 28 at 9:30 a.m.

**Nova Scotia** is increasing paid domestic violence leave from three to five days, effective April 1. The change aims to give employees more time to access essential medical, legal and social support services.

Currently, employees with at least three months of service are eligible for up to 16 continuous weeks of domestic violence leave. In addition, an employee can take 10 continuous or intermittent days, which includes three paid days.

**Tracey Taweel and Kelliann Dean** and Deputy Minister Jennifer Glennie, has made the following binding recommendations: increase the annual indemnity payable to MLAs to \$115,000 from \$89,234; increase the additional salary payable to the speaker to \$63,250 from \$49,046; increase the additional salary payable to the deputy Speaker to \$26,450 from \$24,523; increase the additional salary payable to the leader of the opposition to \$63,250 from \$49,046; increase the additional salary payable to the leader of a recognized party to \$37,950 from \$24,523; increase the additional salary payable to the premier to \$115,748 from \$101,545; increase the additional salary payable to a minister with portfolio to \$63,250 from \$49,046 and decrease the maximum additional salary payable to a minister without portfolio to \$40,250 from \$49,046.

**Wild blueberry and apple farmers** can now apply for funding to buy new equipment for safer and more efficient harvesting. "Our farmers work hard to produce healthy, quality food to feed families, create jobs and run businesses that build a strong economy and communities," said Kent Smith, acting Minister of Agriculture. "This new funding program means farmers can access new equipment to help them harvest their crops in a way that's safer and faster to reduce labour costs." Equipment eligible for funding includes tree fruit harvest-assist platforms, front-mounted blueberry rakes and 48- or 60-inch blueberry harvester heads. This equipment increases efficiency: apple harvest-assist platforms, for example, reduce harvest time by about 20 per cent by eliminating the need for ladders. Farmers can apply for up to \$50,000 through the new Wild Blueberry and Apple Harvest Efficiency Program, which can provide up to \$1.2 million over the next two years.

## Front Entrance Re-Design Unveiled

By *Maurice Rees*

The front entryway of 1 Church Street is expected to undergo major overhaul when construction begins to install accessibility ramps. Council's approved capital budget includes \$70,000 in fiscal 2024/25 for the design of front entryway improvements at 1 Church Street. The project is being fully funded via the federal 'Enabling Accessibility Fund' and will focus on the exterior of the entrance.

Staff issued a public request for proposals for the front entryway design and the work was awarded to DRKR Architects Limited on October 2, 2024. Design is ongoing, and the scope of work also includes preparing tender documents for the improvements. Work will be tendered in the spring and Council's approved capital budget includes \$250,000 in fiscal 2025/26 for the improvements.

Staff presented the pro-

posed changes to the Town of Truro's Heritage Advisory Committee on January 8th and received tentative approval for the modifications. Formal approval will be issued once all drawings and specifications are finalized.

The project is being prompted by two key factors: First, there is a need to make our front entrance fully accessible to meet provincial mandates, as well as to provide an acceptable level of service to

our residents. Second, to improve security and control the flow of traffic through the building, but first need to make the front entrance accessible to everyone. This will allow us to restrict access at the back door to staff only, and to direct everyone else to the front. Currently we only have a ramp at the rear entrance.

Once the front entrance improvements are complete, it will be possible to improve circulation within the building itself.



These graphics illustrate preliminary schematics of the proposed work to install an accessibility ramp at the front of the municipal building at 1 Church Street. (Colchester)



As shown above the public drop off redesign at the Kemptown material handling facility is now complete and operational. Philip Reddin told council on February 13th. "We have received positive feedback from customers as it has much more space for traffic flow and has a more secure location behind our gates". Mr. Reddin's additional reports are found on pages 10, 11 and 14. (Colchester Photo)

## Tourism Marketing Levy generates \$347,884

In early December 2024, the Municipality hired a part time Marketing Levy Coordinator to oversee the registration, remittance, and reporting of the marketing levy. The position provides services to project partners; Truro, Millbrook First Nation, and Stewiacke. The work has included extensive communication with operators addressing registration and compliance issues, which

has led to considerable progress in updating accounts and receiving payments.

Additionally, the coordinator has been leading the development of a new website ([tcmarketinglevy.ca](http://tcmarketinglevy.ca)), set to launch in February, which will allow operators to register, submit reports, and access resources online. Their ongoing efforts aim to streamline processes, support operators,

and enhance transparency in the use of levy funds.

The data below summarizes the marketing levy operator registration and revenue to date. (Collection began on April 1, 2024).

The number of registered operators from each area include: Millbrook 2 of 2; Stewiacke 3 of 3; Truro 25 of 25 and Colchester 105 of 115.

A total of \$347,884 revenue

has been collected in the first 10 months since April 1, 2024. Colchester is collecting on behalf of Millbrook & Stewiacke and has submitted a total of \$148,680.48, comprised as follows: Municipality, \$48,114; Millbrook, \$100,264 and \$302 from Stewiacke. Meanwhile Truro's 25 registered operators have collected \$199,204.00

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