

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Heritage Day Celebrates Joseph Willie Comeau

Joseph Willie Comeau, one of the longest-serving politicians in Canadian history was honoured this Heritage Day in Nova Scotia.

A proud Acadian Nova Scotian from Clare, Digby County, Mr. Comeau was first elected in 1907 to represent that area in the legislative assembly, using his position to advocate for Acadian communities and culture. He was elected nine times before being appointed to the senate in 1948, serving until his death in 1966 at age 89.

Mr. Comeau was also an educator and entrepreneur, a husband and father of 16 children.

"During his long and remarkable career in the Nova Scotia legislature and the Senate of Canada, Mr. Comeau used his voice to elevate the French language and education, as well as Acadian cultural expression. He earned lasting respect for his leadership and integrity," said Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. "On Heritage Day, we remember and celebrate Joseph Willie Comeau and the meaningful contributions he made that continue to reverberate across our province."

Premier Addresses Offshore Wind Investors

Premier Tim Houston returned as a keynote speaker at the largest offshore wind and ocean renewables conference in the Americas where he promoted investment opportunities in Nova Scotia.

The Oceanic Network 2026 International Partnering Forum, which attracts thousands of professionals and industry experts from around the world, takes place in New York this week. The Premier also spoke at last year's event in Virginia.

The focus of Premier Houston's address on Thursday, February 12, was Nova Scotia's vision to develop its offshore wind resources and, through the Wind West plan, build transmission infrastructure to send that clean energy to markets. Together, these initiatives will deliver energy security and economic prosperity for Nova Scotians.

The event was also an opportunity for conversations with more potential partners who are looking for new sources of clean energy. Recently, Premier Houston and Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey signed an agreement to work toward Nova Scotia supplying the state with clean energy from offshore wind.



"Duo Perennis", Sharon Gow-Knickle and Hannah Parks (Photo courtesy Musique Royale)

"Duo Perennis" Concert March 8TH

First United is looking forward to hosting the celebrated "Duo Perennis" (Sharon Gow-Knickle and Hannah Parks) for an afternoon concert of piano duets on Sunday afternoon, March 8, 3pm. This dynamic duo will perform music by Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, and Mendelssohn. They have performed this concert on the Musique Royale concert series and beyond, and are looking forward to bringing this dynamic program to Truro and playing First United's beautiful Yamaha C7 concert grand piano. Tickets are \$20, with a \$5 student rate, available through the church office or at the door.

"The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts"; Duo Perennis brings together two beloved Nova Scotian pianists, Sharon Gow-Knickle and Hannah Parks. Both sought after collaborators and accomplished soloists, in 2024 these two

musicians began a journey together into the incredible canon of piano duets and duos written by the masters. Their shared love of the history, significance and timeless beauty of this music inspires their thoughtful programming. Hannah and Sharon hold Master of Music performance degrees from the University of Ottawa and the Manhattan School of Music respectively. They have both performed in festivals across Eastern Canada and the United States including the Elora Festival, Scotia Festival and the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival in Maine. Both have toured the Maritimes extensively with choral ensembles and chamber groups, and are currently resident accompanists for the Studio Singers and the South Shore Children's Choir (Hannah), and the South Shore Chorale (Sharon). Sharon and Hannah are grateful to live with their families in beautiful Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

Help for Renters at Risk of Homelessness

YMCA of Cumberland and Truro Homeless Outreach Society were among a group of 16 community-based partners - seven in Halifax Regional Municipality and nine in other parts of the province who will receive diversion funding to help Nova Scotians at risk of homelessness address rental arrears, overdue power bills and other housing-related challenges.

"One of the best ways to address homelessness in our communities is to prevent it from happening in the first place," said Susan Corkum-Greek, Ministerial Assistant for Opportunities and Social Development, on behalf of Minister Barbara Adams. "This additional funding gives our service providers more tools to support Nova Scotians and keep them connected to stable housing."

Partners will receive an additional \$950,000 in total to provide direct, one-time financial support to help their clients stay in their homes or secure a new rental.

Examples of assistance could include help with rental arrears when someone is facing eviction, covering a damage deposit or first month's rent, or help with a utility bill after a disconnection notice.

People who receive diversion support funding are also connected to other supports and services, including a housing support caseworker who will work with them long-term.

The Department provided \$5.4 million in 2025-26 to community-based organizations across the province to fund housing support worker positions.

Deadline for the April issue of **The Shoreline Journal** is March 24

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