

# REES' Pieces

## Athletes Make Us Proud

The 2026 Olympics is over. What are we going to watch to occupy our "in front of the boob tube" idle time? Thankfully we have had two weeks immersing ourselves in the joys and sometime disappointments of Canada's athlete vying for one of three positions on the podium, or accomplishing their personal best.

Locally, we need to celebrate and congratulate our local achievers. Hope I don't miss anyone. Liam Moffat of Folly Lake, as a proud Colchesterite, represented Canada at the 2026 Olympics in Italy. "We are proud of you!!!" Even though you didn't get a medal, you gave it your best. This is an outstanding accomplishment you will cherish for the rest of your life.

Another group who needs our prayers and best wishes are under the coaching directorship of Craig Burgess, Colchester's Director of Recreation Services, who hails from Colchester South. Craig has personal experience in global curling events having followed his daughter Kaylee through her very successful junior career comprising six junior championships.

Karlee Burgess born on September 14, 1998, in Truro, Nova Scotia is renowned for her junior success. She is the only curler in history to win three World Junior Curling Championships (2016, 2018, and 2020) and three Canadian Junior Women's Curling Championships, making her the first three-time gold medalist in the latter event. As of November 2025, she plays lead for Team Kerri Einarson in Manitoba, having joined mid-season.

Craig, as coach, is championing Team MacIsaac curling out of the Truro Curling Club. The MacIsaac squad will represent Canada at the Under 21 World Curling Championship in Denmark. Team Members are Skip: Calan MacIsaac Truro, Third: Nathan Gray Dartmouth, second: Owain Fisher of North River, lead: Chris McCurdy of Old Barns, alternate Nick Mosher of Hammond Plains and Coach Burgess.

So, what will we choose to follow through our favourite media platform? Initially, we can choose to turn our eyes and ears to Halifax now that the Provincial Legislature resumed on Monday, February 23rd with the Throne Speech and 2026-2027 Budget on the same day. This column written on Sunday, February 22, the day before, amid persistent rumours it is going to contain a very large deficit. Premier Houston has indicated he is somewhat comfortable running a deficit budget for another two years.

Honestly, what else could he say?

Provincially and nationally, it is impossible to determine the economic future. From coast-to-coast governments may have to chose deficits as we fight for economic survival to not become the 51st state. With an unhinged, desperate to hang onto power, President Trump south of the border, the pendulum constantly swings to the maximum within hours. Last Friday, when the US Senate ruled certain of his tariffs were illegal, within hours he was at the microphone berating several of them, while vowing to find another way to re-introduce global tariffs. Before he was done his hissy-fit, he announced a 10% global tariff, on top of existing tariffs not ruled illegal. Canada and Mexico were saved from some of the onslaught because about 90% of exports to the USA are protected by CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement). The reprieve may be short-lived because it expires this fall, and the three countries previously agreed to have an agreement in place by July 1st.

Trump's tirades are wreaking havoc with the world order, not that it was perfect. At least it was rational, and for most part major democracies functioned as trading partners reasonably well with a sense of stability.

Trump is entirely truthful with his claim of being "the great uniter". He is well on his way to uniting global democracies against USA. The global threat of his actions is he may decide to invade or use his massive armed forces already positioned the mid east to threaten Iran to the point they retaliate.

If more MP's don't cross the floor to give Carney a majority government and if trade relations with the USA goes from bad to much worse, Carney may call a snap election to get the majority he would need to fight an elongated trade war with the USA. We will know by early May in time to take action if CUSMA is going south.

Maurice

## OP-ED

By Timothy Halman

The annual Red Tape Awareness Week is a reminder outdated rules don't just create frustration - they slow down the construction of homes and hospitals, delay access to care and discourage investment in industries like resource development that are essential to building a future-ready province.

That's why we've focused on cutting through the status quo, making government work faster and better for Nova Scotians, and meeting this moment in history with the

## Reducing Red Tape to Get Things Done

urgency it demands.

We've reduced permitting times for mining by more than half, attracting projects that will create good jobs and position Nova Scotia to compete globally.

We've improved half of the Province's 300 permits so decisions get made faster - meaning small businesses get answers instead of being stuck in limbo. And we're not stopping there.

By removing barriers to housing development, 14,667 new units are underway, with conditions now in place for more than 54,000 additional homes.

We're also modernizing health care. We've expanded the scope of primary care services offered by pharmacists and nurse practitioners, making it easier for Nova Scotians to access care. And the launch of the One Person, One Record system at the IWK is a major step toward a provincewide platform that will eliminate duplicative processes and build on the previous work of the Province to reduce the administrative burden for doctors by hundreds of thousands of hours.

Cutting red tape doesn't mean cutting corners. It means removing what's un-

necessary so we can stay focused on what's essential - building homes families can afford, supporting good jobs and the industries that drive them, and improving access to care.

Now more than ever, Nova Scotians expect a government that gets things done and meets the unprecedented challenges we face head on and with our heads up.

By reducing red tape responsibly, we're delivering results and building a stronger, more resilient province for everyone.

**Timothy Halman is Minister of Service Efficiency, Province of Nova Scotia.**

## UNESCO Funding Rationale

By Maurice Rees

The following is the rationale behind Alana Hirtle's UNESCO \$309,500 funding announcement in Joggins on February 19th. The Joggins Fossil Centre is a UNESCO World Heritage (WHS) and an important attraction within the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Geopark.

"Linking 13 UNESCO-designated sites across the Atlantic provinces as a premier travel destination" is an important long range tool to significantly increase tourism throughout the Atlantic Region and become a global destination as personally experiencing what biospheres and Geoparks have to offer to the global tourist.

The Atlantic Canada UN-

ESCO Tourism Corridor connects 13 UNESCO-designated sites across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. This corridor aims to showcase the region's rich cultural heritage, natural wonders, and geological marvels while promoting sustainable tourism practices and fostering collaboration between communities.

**Rationale includes:**

- **UNESCO Site Concentration:** The corridor connects 13 UNESCO-designated sites across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, offering a unique concentration of globally recognized natural and cultural heritage.

- **Diverse Tourism Assets:** The

corridor showcases a wide range of attractions, from World Heritage Sites to Biosphere Regions and Global Geoparks, providing visitors with varied experiences in cultural heritage, natural wonders, and geological marvels.

- **Cross-Provincial Collaboration:** The corridor fosters cooperation between three Atlantic provinces, encouraging regional economic development and shared tourism strategies.

- **Global Recognition:** UNESCO designations provide instant international recognition, potentially attracting a wider range of domestic and international visitors interested in world-class heritage experiences.

See the full story on page 1 and 3.

## Village Follies present "The Good, The Bad, And The Confused"

Yeehaw! We're steppin' back into the wild west with the latest Village Follies dinner theatre production, The Good, The Bad, And The Confused. So, get your tickets, grab your cowboy hats and boots, and mosey on down to Connie's saloon.

When two strangers ride into a small, quiet, wild west town, life quickly turns from routine to frantic.

Mistaken for the leader of an outlaw gang by a gunslinger and his whisky running boss, cowardly Allan will try anything to avoid being forced into a gunfight. But when his innocent sweetheart is taken hostage, he must find some courage in order to save her. Thankfully, he has the help of some colourful townfolk, including a gambler, an innkeeper, a saloon proprietress, and a preacher and his wife. With some surprising stories of their own.

Performances are set for May 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, and 9th at 7:00pm, and a matinee at 4:00pm on May 3rd.

Tickets are \$40, and include a delicious three course meal of salad, chicken

entree, and dessert. Also includes tea, coffee, rolls, and lots of laughs.

All performances will take place at the Debert Legion Branch 106, 1252 Masstown Road, Debert, NS.

To order tickets, please email [thevillagefollies@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagefollies@gmail.com) with your name, date, and number of tickets.

We hope to see you there!

## Low Income Tax Rebates to cost \$548,000

By Maurice Rees

At its committee meeting on February 12th, council committee approved new Low-Income Income rebates for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. The cost of the Low-Income Tax Exemption Policy in the 2025/26 tax year was \$534,000 increasing to \$548,000 in fiscal 2026/2027.

In fiscal 2025/26 approximately 850 rebates were granted in Colchester County (900 in fiscal 2024/25, 850 in fiscal 2023/24). A 2.6% increase in CPI rate will have an approximate increase of \$14,000 in budget if the number of applicants remains consistent with prior years.

The annual income thresholds and rebates will be ad-

justed by the CPI rate as used by the Property Valuation Services Corporation or any of its successors, unless otherwise approved by Council. The CPI rate is 2.6%, therefore the proposed new amounts are as follows:

- **Family Size Income Rebate:** Single person with income less than \$32,310 receive an exemption rebate of \$652.20, up from last year, \$635.67.
- **Two people** with income less than \$42,676 receive an exemption rebate of \$652.20, up from last year, \$635.67

- **A household** comprising 3 or more people with income less than \$51,213 receive an exemption rebate of \$652.20, up from last year, \$635.67

## The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

### BASS RIVER:

Bayside Pharmacy  
Dominion Chair Factory Store

### BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
MacQuarries Pharmacy  
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

### DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

### FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

### GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

### GREAT VILLAGE:

Wilson's Gas

### MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

### MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

### MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel  
Hampton Inn & Suites

### NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

### PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave

### TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore  
Best Western Glengarry  
Holiday Inn  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

### NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:  
Bass River Consolidated;  
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:

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The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Maurice Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.22 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$31.92  
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HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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