

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Sportfishing generates \$85-Million Annually

Sportfishing which opened on April 1st currently generates about \$85 million annually. In 2021, more than 78,000 sport-fishing licences were sold - the highest participation since 1985. The rules for the 2022 season are outlined in the Anglers' Handbook and 2022 Summary of Regulations, which is supplied to purchasers of fishing licences and is also available online. The Anglers' Handbook and 2022 Summary of Regulations: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/documents/anglers-handbook>

Sportfishing licences may be purchased at <https://novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing/> or in person at Department of Natural Resources and Renewables field offices and various retail vendors throughout the province.

Grants to support community housing

DownTheMarsh Community Land Trust and Wenjikwom Housing Commission Society both of Truro received \$63,900 and \$57,000, respectively to support important housing work in their communities. Awarding of the grants was announced on March 28 by the federal and provincial governments who provided funding totaling \$916,000.

The Community Housing Capacity Building Program is jointly funded through the Canada-Nova Scotia Bilateral Agreement under the National Housing Strategy (NHS) and is responsible for the financing.

2022 Wine Awards Call for Submissions

The 2022 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines is open for submissions. The submission deadline for the 2022 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines is Friday, May 27.

The award, established by Lt.-Gov. J.J. Grant in 2014, recognizes the outstanding quality of locally sourced and produced wines. It also honours the commitment and craft of those in Nova Scotia's wine industry. The award is administered in partnership with Taste of Nova Scotia and Wine Growers Nova Scotia (formerly the Winery Association of Nova Scotia). These organizations will share provide information about the submission process to member wineries.

Healthcare Investments in Rural Universities

The government is investing \$105 million to improve infrastructure, foster research and enhance healthcare and training at the province's rural universities. The \$105-million investment is one-time operating funding that includes three pieces: \$65 million in deferred maintenance investments at St. Francis Xavier University, Acadia University, Université Sainte-Anne and Cape Breton University (CBU); \$35 million toward the construction of a Centre for Discovery and Innovation at CBU and \$5 million to execute planning for a strategic health initiative at CBU. The deferred maintenance investments will allow rural universities to address a significant backlog of infrastructure upgrades and improvements. Examples include electrical upgrades, roof replacements and accessibility and mechanical upgrades.

Rebate for Fertility and related Medical Expenses

Nova Scotians struggling to expand their families through fertility treatments and surrogacy will benefit from a new tax measure introduced in the budget on March 30. The Province will offer a refundable tax credit equal to 40 per cent of the cost of fertility treatments provided by a Nova Scotia-licensed medical practitioner or infertility treatment clinic and for surrogacy-related medical expenses. This measure makes Nova Scotia the first province in Canada to provide this kind of support for surrogacy. The Nova Scotia Fertility and Surrogacy Rebate, part of Budget 2022-23, will provide coverage for people seeking assistance with parenthood, including from the 2SLGBTIQ+ community who previously had no option but to pay the full cost. There is no limit on the number of treatments an individual can claim, but the maximum annual claim is \$20,000 in eligible costs for a maximum annual tax credit of \$8,000.

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this mass tragedy. Our feelings continue to be raw. The questions continue to be great. The sorrow experienced continues to be, at times, overwhelming.

My comments today will not provide great relief to those who are suffering; however, they will know that their loved ones and their terrible grief have not gone unrecognized. They are remembered and shared by those of us in the House of Commons today and, as the anniversary of the tragedy looms ever closer, by all Canadians.

Let us forever remember those families and all of those affected in our thoughts and in our prayers.

This year marks Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee—her 70th year in the Throne. To commemorate this historic milestone,

News from our Provincial Council

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They are absolutely wonderful, and genuine people. Once the official portion of the reception was over, they began to mingle and speak with everyone. They are so real and genuine; they were so comfortable and caring as they engaged the residents and in particular the children. I for one appreciated this and I am very confident the residents did as well. Thanks to all it was a great night. If you wish to partially understand the Lieutenant Governor's passion for young people look for the picture including, Cadence Kraan, Maurice is printing elsewhere in this issue of the two of them walking "hand-in-hand" down the stairs at the Peg.

Also this week, on Monday for the first time, I attended, in person the Mass Casualty Commission. There were previous times I would like to have gone to support the Families, however CoVid restrictions prevented that. Monday I went because I wanted to support the Onslow Belmont Fire Chief and Deputy Chief as the relived the events of that Saturday morning. They as well as a family

and to reflect on Canada's storied relationship with the Queen, I will be awarding 70 Platinum Jubilee pins to constituents in Cumberland-Colchester. These pins will be awarded to community members who have shown a commitment to making the lives of their neighbours better.

This could be a first responder, front line worker, community volunteer, organization leader—anyone who has made an impact on the community can and should be nominated. Please send your nominations by May 6th through our website at: <https://drstephenellismp.com/platinum-jubilee/> or by email at stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

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

member of one of the Murdered testified. Also a Municipal employee who was at the firehall when it came under fire was in attendance. The testimony, as they relived that morning was powerful and impactful. Two volunteers and a Municipal Emergency Measures employee responded as usual to an emergency in our community. They had been doing this for years, responding to emergencies, in support of our residents. That morning changed their lives forever. I want to thank them on behalf of all are residents and let them know that we are there to support them!

I believe we all want to put that weekend as far in the rear-view mirror as possible. One part of me believes that I should not write about it because many of us want this to be forgotten history, a bad memory. However, I need to recognize / remember the victims and their families, they will always be in our thoughts.

Please stay safe and enjoy our spring.

Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North can be reached at (0) - 902-641-2335 or tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

New Biodiversity Hiking Challenge

Submitted by Janet Barlow

With springtime our forests and wild areas are waking up and now is a wonderful time to get out and observe biodiversity literally popping out of the ground. To help you do that there's a new hiking challenge inviting you to discover the biodiversity all around us. Hike Nova Scotia and Nature Nova Scotia announce the launch of the new Biodiversity Challenge Badge as part of Hike Nova Scotia's Hiker Challenge.

"With all the threats to biodiversity these days - climate change, pollution and habitat degradation - this new badge is a way to positively focus on the beautiful diversity of our natural world," says Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotia Executive Director. "We hope the more people appreciate biodiversity, the more they will act to protect it."

The new Biodiversity Challenge Badge is an opportunity to contribute to citizen science while hiking. To qualify for this badge, complete at least 10 hikes and, for each one, upload 10 or more observations via iNaturalist, an app



that helps you connect with nature around you. By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. Log some kilometres and observations this month by participating in the City Nature Challenge from April 29 to May 2. To apply for your badge, you must report on the areas hiked and provide your iNaturalist username to verify your citizen science contribution.

"Citizen science is one of the best ways to collect important information about our wild spaces," says Becky Parker, Coordinator with Na-

ture Nova Scotia. "As hikers, we have access to kilometres of trails and some of Nova Scotia's most remote places. Any observations we can share while being active in nature contributes to a greater understanding of these treasured places."

The Hiker Challenge is about inspiring, motivating and rewarding trail users - especially new and novice hikers - to get out on Nova Scotia's trails and start hiking

or to hike more. Your reward for completing each challenge is a badge to show off on clothing or backpacks, as well as being listed on the Honour Roll. There are several badges to earn across the province as part of the Hiker Challenge.

The Biodiversity Badge is \$5 for Hike NS paid members or \$7.50 for non-members. Each season there is a prize draw including everyone who has earned a badge in the last three months. Prizes are gift cards generously provided by The Trail Shop. Learn more about the Hiker Challenge at www.hikenovascotia.ca/projects-hiker-challenge.

For more information on the new Hiker Challenge badge or Hike Nova Scotia contact: Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotia, 902-717-4408,

info@hikenovascotia.ca, hikenovascotia.ca or Becky Parker, Nature Nova Scotia, 902-412-2726, info@naturens.ca, naturens.ca

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