

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Mental Health, Addictions Phone Line Open

Starting Good Friday, April 7, the Province's mental health and addictions phone line will be open on weekday holidays. This will better support Nova Scotians who use this line to connect with non-crisis services. The line serves as a central point of intake for all Nova Scotians looking to connect with mental health and addiction supports, either for themselves or someone they are concerned about. People who need care or help finding available supports can call 1-855-922-1122 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Tuesdays, the line is open until 8 p.m. The Province plans to expand the hours later this year. Callers receive an assessment by a health professional who matches them with the right level of care. This could be a program provided by a community organization, an appointment with an LWK Health Centre or Nova Scotia Health professional, or another type of support. Adding hours at the mental health and addictions intake line is one of many actions the government has taken to expand care for Nova Scotians. The government recently launched a peer support line, single session therapy and an online coaching program that Nova Scotians can use, without a referral, to help them manage mild to moderate mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression, relationship issues and job loss.

Investments in Technology for Students, Teachers

Nova Scotia is purchasing more Chromebooks, iPads and laptops to support students and teachers across the province. The \$10-million EdTech Refresh Plan complements other recent technological investments, including more support for the Nova Scotia Virtual School. Funding for the technology refresh plan includes \$4 million from the 2022-23 fiscal year and \$6 million from 2023-24. So far, 10,325 Chromebooks have been purchased and distributed. Schools will distribute technology to students based on age and how much learning support they need. The Province also recently invested \$530,000 for additional teachers to support the Nova Scotia Virtual School, an online high school which provides the same courses offered at schools in person.

Training more Medical Laboratory Technologists

The Province continues to move quickly to train more people for high-demand healthcare jobs across Nova Scotia. Starting in September, a new, flexible online learning option will be available to Nova Scotians who want to become medical laboratory technologists. Up to 40 people will be accepted to the program, created through the Province's partnership with the Michener Institute of Education at University Health Network. People in the new program will sign a return of service agreement for a position with Nova Scotia Health. Another program through the Michener institute is now helping five internationally trained medical laboratory technologists get ready to work in Nova Scotia. In January, they began a 16-week bridging program that will prepare them for their licensing exam. While they wait to take the exam, they will work with conditional licenses and help fill critical labour needs at Nova Scotia Health. In February 2022, the Department of Advanced Education, the Department of Health and Wellness, and Nova Scotia Health signed a memorandum of understanding with the Toronto-based Michener institute to explore new opportunities to increase training capacity for positions that are in demand in the Nova Scotia healthcare system. Information on becoming a medical laboratory technologist: <https://novascotia.ca/become-medical-laboratory-technologist/>



The back wall is currently being repaired on the tipping floor building where panels blew off. The thermal camera that was on the back wall has now been put back in place and is operational again. (Contributed)



Director's Report – Balefill Facility

By Phillip Redden B. Sc. F.E.

The following is the Balefill Facility portion of the report to council committee on March 16th by Phillip Redden B.Sc.F.E., Director of Solid Waste on Materials Recovery Facility, Kemptown. (We divided Redden's report into several separate articles).

Production & Staffing: In January, there was a break down with the new baler when the flange that attaches the side ram got torn away from the main baling chamber. This happened due to poor factory welds and the repair was done through warranty with only one week of down time. Staff were able to stockpile garbage on the tipping floor during this period to

avoid putting garbage loose in the landfill.

Currently two employees are off work or working partial hours due to medical leave. This required the call back of the Grounds Maintenance Worker temporarily to help fill in where needed between now and when the summer seasonal position recommendations in May.

The Manager of Balefill and Compost Operations attended a conference in November hosted by the Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia (WRANS) where there were various speakers on waste related topics to promote best practices in waste reduction and look at some outside the box projects that are on the go in the industry.

The Manager of Balefill and Compost Operations was appointed to be the committee representative for the Nova Scotia Solid Waste Managers and Directors Committee (NSSWMD), on the Divert Landfill Audit Advisory Committee. Divert was given a mandate from Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) to oversee a landfill waste characterization audit in 2023. This audit will include samples from all seven NS landfill facilities as a follow

up to the most recent one that was completed in 2017.

The Manager and three employees attended an eight-hour Landfill Fire Workshop online in February, put on by SWANA's Northern Lights Chapter.

Markets: The two wood piles are currently being processed by Halifax C&D, including all clean and dirty wood that is normally accepted at the facility, as well as all the Fiona tree debris and brush that was collected curbside and/or brought into the site by customers. Material processing started on February 26 and is expected to continue until the end of March.

Once all wood onsite is ground, Halifax C&D will then grind up the 835 metric tonnes of shingles that have been diverted and stockpiled at the facility since they were processed last February. This is approximately double the tonnage we received the last couple years, due to Hurricane Fiona damage. Although there is no current market for the ground up shingle material again this year, we are saving valuable space in our C&D landfill and earning diversion credits by not burying them. We can use the ground shingle material for intermediate cover at the C&D disposal site to save on the amount of clean fill that is used for cover.

Projects/Operations: The back wall is currently being repaired on the tipping floor building where panels blew off. The thermal camera that was on the back wall has now been put back in place and is operational again. Once the wall repairs are completed, the roof will be the next step in getting our main balefill building back to normal, structurally.

New Nova Scotia C&D regulations will be implemented in July 2023 that will see pressure treated wood no longer allowed to be disposed of in the C&D landfill. The first year is intended to be a grace period that will focus on education and auditing before any enforcement takes place, but there are other changes with regards to stockpile sizes, site design requirements and site monitoring well requirements for new facilities/expansions that will be implemented right away. This new ban will affect the facilities operations, as we will have to start separating the pressure treated material into a separate stockpile, grind it, and dispose of it in the waste landfill if another market cannot be found. The Manager of Balefill and Compost Operations has been working through the consultation process with NSECC and has submitted a response from the Municipality highlighting any questions or concerns.

In recent discussions with the operator of Ground Fix Remediation about the current asbestos disposal area, it was determined that we are currently at about 80% capacity for the land that was previously cleared for this purpose. Upon checking the maps to see where the County property boundaries are, it was confirmed that there will be ample room to expand this site by clearing more trees off when needed.



These two photos show the damage to the new baler when the flange that attaches the side ram got torn away from the main baling chamber. This happened due to poor factory welds and the repair was done through warranty with only one week of down time. (Contributed)

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