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No Tax Rate Increase

By Maurice Rees

The big news coming out of Colchester's April monthly meeting is NO TAX RATE INCREASE.

(Before you jump for joy check you will have a larger tax bill. To determine exactly how much check your 2023

and 2024 property assessment. Assessments on average have increased 8-10%. When you complete the math on the percent increase in assessment, it will tell you the percentage increase in your actual bill. Next calculation is to add the assessment per-

centage increase to last year's tax bill. Now you can budget.

This is the sixth year of the last seven that the Municipality has been able to keep its rates the same, with just a half cent increase in 2019.

With the rapid increase in costs in most all areas, it is as-

ounding, Colchester was able to hold the tax rates at residential at \$0.885 and commercial properties \$2.28, per 100 dollars of assessment. This is the sixth year of the last seven that the Municipality has been able to keep its rates the same, with just a half cent increase in 2019.

Significant construction for residential and commercial as shown by value of building permits, plus the increase in assessment has expanded the tax base. The balanced budget increased from \$38.7 Million last year to just over \$42 Million this year. An 8% increase in tax revenue from residential development and 14% increase in revenue from commercial development helped accommodate the larger budget without rate increases. "We are very fortunate that we've experienced record growth and development here in Colchester," says Mayor, Christine Blair. "By increasing our taxbase we can accommodate the rising costs we've experienced in recent years without having to increase our tax rates."

The budget supports the Municipality's quality, core programs and services, and continues to invest in critical infrastructure and economic development initiatives. Partnerships such as the Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP), the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, as well as future housing initiatives are also in-

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2024

"The Annual Meeting" of the Folly Village Cemetery will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Location will be 749 Little Dyke Road. (Shawn Putnam's lunchroom on the same side as the cemetery.) Please confirm your attendance with our Secretary, Linda Giddens at 902-662-3296 or Fred Richard at 902-662-3729.

Nova Scotia Health is in the process of contacting 2,690 people by letter whose personal health information was inappropriately accessed by a former employee at St. Martha's Regional Hospital. The person responsible for the breaches has been terminated.

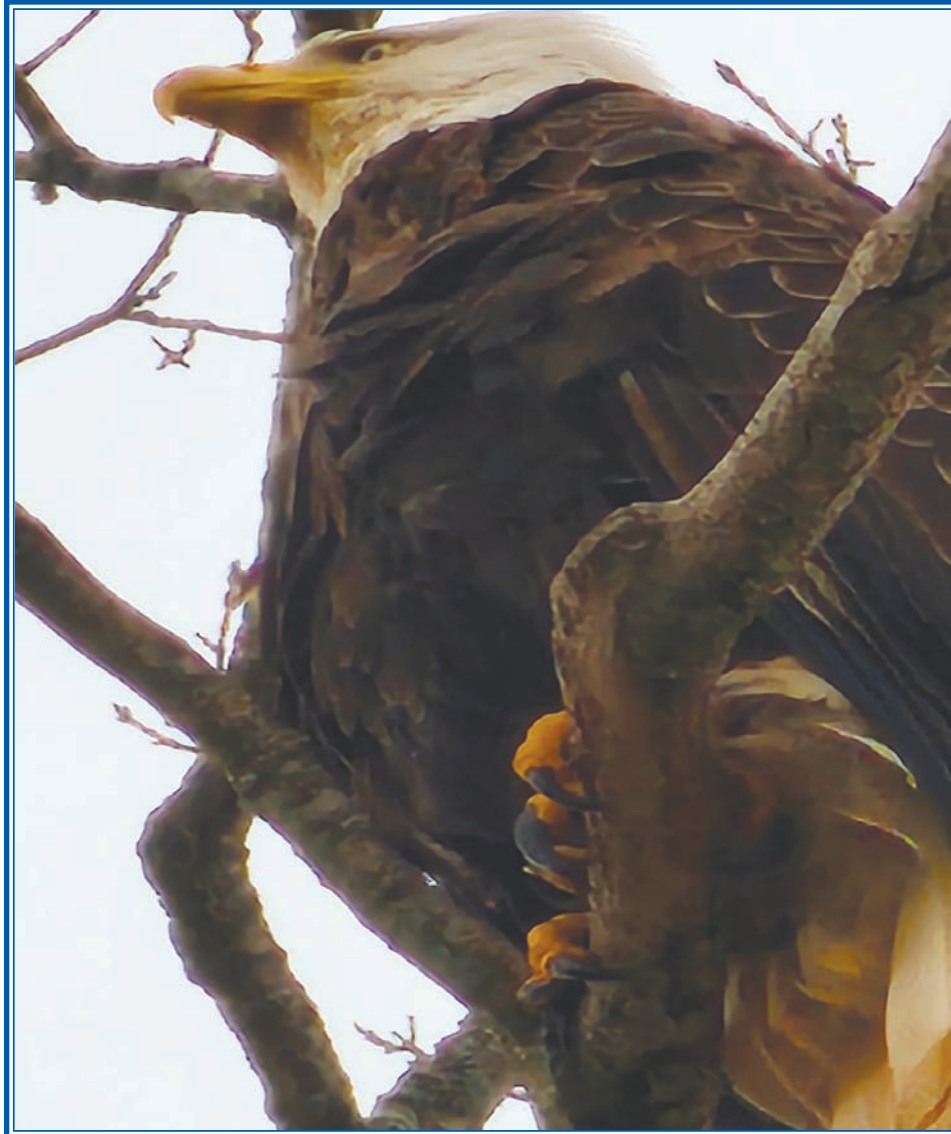
Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia held its spring meeting and forecast what the 2024 growing season will be like. See summary details on pages 16, 17 & 18.

Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce honoured executives from three areas businesses at a Gals Awards ceremony. See details on Pages 19, 20 & 21.

St. David's United Church, Bible Hill, who have (and continue to) hold weekly card parties (45's) for many years now. The card parties are held on Thursdays.

The Spring Compost Giveaway event by Municipality of Colchester will be held at the Kemptown site is scheduled for May 4 - 11 where all residents are entitled to 100kgs or 3 bags free of charge.

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Mayors and Chief's breakfast on June 4, at 8:30 a.m. at Legends Gaming Centre in Millbrook First Nation. Colchester County Mayor Christine Blair, Town of Truro Mayor Bill Mills, Town of Stewiacke Mayor George Lloy and Millbrook First Nation Chief Bob Gloade will share priorities in their regions. To register, visit the events calendar at www.trurocolchesterchamber.com



Check out the talons on this bis little lady. From her perch in front of Liza Madore's home, she scans the neighbourhood for feasts, friends and foes. A Liza Madore photo.



The 50th Anniversary of the Nova Scotia Volunteer Awards will be held at the RECC on September 18th, nominations close on May 13th. Pictured following the announcement are Dave Ritcey, MLA Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook; Cathy Hinton, Deputy Mayor, Town of Truro; Christine Blair, Mayor Colchester; Melanie Lane, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the RECC and Matt Moore, Manager RECC. (Brown Photo)

"No Criminal Charges" Onslow Fire Hall Incident

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has concluded its review into the April 19, 2020, Onslow Fire Hall incident and has determined that no criminal charges are warranted. The SIU reviewed information considered by the Joint Federal/Provincial Commission into the April 2020 Nova Scotia Mass Casualty (Mass Casualty Commission), with respect to shots fired by two RCMP officers at the Onslow Fire Hall on April 19, 2020.

The Nova Scotia Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT)

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