



Lauren Rushton gives Evie Harrington a cute face painting during the Easter Funday at the Debert Lodge on March 30th. (Harrington Photo)



Marie Irving-Benoit was busy at the popcorn craft station during the Easter Funday on March 30th, sponsored by the Debert and Area Community Association. (Harrington Photo)



Lauren Rushton was very pleased with the success of The Quarter Raffle, held at the Debert Legion on April 7th in support of Luke's Legacy Mental Health Awareness and Family Fun Day. The proceeds of the raffle will help cover costs of the children's activities for the event on May 26th at the Civic Square in Truro. (Harrington Photo)

Funding to Attract, Retain Workers in Truro

Relocation guides, welcome kits and organized site visits are a few of the projects that the Truro community will launch this year to attract healthcare workers.

The Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity will receive \$75,000 from the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment (OHPR) Community Fund to deliver recognition events, a social media promotional and recruitment campaign, a new promotional video of the Colchester East Hants Health Centre, and an introduction to skiing programs at Ski Wentworth.

"Having healthcare newcomers and their families transition well and settle into our communities is to our benefit," said Dave Ritcey, MLA for Truro-Bible Hill-Mill-

brook-Salmon River, on behalf of Michelle Thompson, Minister responsible for the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment. "The communities leading these programs know best how to attract and highlight the benefits and lifestyles of their own area, and this funding allows them to do that."

In total, 30 organizations across the province will receive support through the OHPR Community Fund this year. More details will be announced soon.

Stephanie Jones, Chair, Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity said "With this funding, our projects to highlight the wonderful things about Truro are going to happen and help us secure healthcare workers for our hospitals and clinics. Across

the community, we're working together to be organized and ready with all the right information to help newcomers make that decision to stay here, where they'll be valued and appreciated."

The OHPR Community Fund supported 28 community-led recruitment and retention initiatives in 2022-23, investing more than \$1.5 million into a range of projects, including healthcare worker recognition events, online support tools, marketing videos and even a

community garden. The fund, established in 2022, is an action item in Action for Health, the government's plan to improve healthcare. It supports community healthcare recruitment and retention initiatives organized by local non-profit organizations, charitable community groups, cultural organizations, member-based organizations and boards, municipalities and chambers of commerce.

Atlantic Canada's First Municipal Light Rail

An innovative proposal to bring Atlantic Canada's first light-rail line to Cape Breton will receive funding from the Province to explore its potential. That is why the Province of Nova Scotia is announcing \$610,000 to support a feasibility study led by the university to develop a battery-powered light-rail train service in CBRM, building on existing infrastructure and the rail corridor.

For the first time in decades, Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) is managing significant growth after years of population decline. While this growth brings many opportunities, access to reliable transportation and housing near Cape Breton University in Sydney have presented challenges for students, residents and the municipality.

"Over the past five years, CBRM transit has done an exceptional job managing this growth, but they need new options. While this new growth phase for CBRM has brought challenges, it also brings an exciting opportunity for solu-

tions that will take the CBRM into the future," said Premier Tim Houston. "For years, Cape Bretoners have seen the railway sit idle. Now they're seeing the population grow and the need for more efficient transportation. This project is something to get excited about and bring hope for more connected communities, more housing and more economic development within the CBRM and beyond."

The study will include consultation with the community. Work is expected to begin immediately.



Wentworth Rec. Ctr.

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