

**Fish & Chip Boat
Now Open for Season**

Catch at the Bay
MASS-TOWN MARKET

Serving the Glooscap Trail • From Truro to Advocate

The Shoreline Journal

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0
Publications Mail™
#40048924 - VOL. 29 NO. 5

MAY 2025 **\$1.95 + HST**

**MARITIME
AUTOPARTS**

NEW & USED PARTS
ON TIME ... AS DESCRIBED!

www.maritimeauto.com

**SCAN
CODE FOR
HUGE
DISCOUNTS**

**HOLLIS
Ford**

Tax Rates Same - \$0.885 & \$2.28

Colchester County Council has officially approved its 2025/26 operating budget with no increase to residential or commercial tax rates. This marks the seventh time in eight years that the Municipality has held tax rates steady, with only a modest half-cent increase occurring in 2019.

Residential property owners will continue to pay \$0.885 and commercial property owners \$2.28 per \$100 of assessed value, as determined by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), the independent, not-for-profit agency responsible for all property assessments in Nova Scotia.

This year's balanced op-

erating budget totals just over \$45 million, up from \$42 million last year. The increase is supported by strong local growth, including new builds, resulting in a 7.63% rise in residential tax revenue and a 2.27% rise in commercial revenue, allowing the Municipality to expand services without raising rates.

Mayor Christine Blair said, "This budget is a reflection of smart planning, strong growth, and a deep commitment to our residents. Holding the line on tax rates—while still expanding services and supporting vital community initiatives—is no small achievement. I'm proud of the work Council and staff

have done to ensure we're not only meeting today's needs but preparing for a stronger, more resilient future."

The 2025/26 budget maintains support for core programs and services, while investing in critical infrastructure, economic development, and community wellbeing. Funding continues for the County's comprehensive grant programs supporting local not-for-profit and volunteer organizations.

"Council reviews requests from many dedicated community groups each year," said Mayor Christine Blair. "These organizations—often volunteer-run—are the backbone of our commu-

nities, providing vital services and facilities. We're proud to continue our support for their incredible work."

Despite increasing financial pressures, including rising mandatory contributions to the Province, Council has delivered a responsible, forward-looking budget. This year, over 43% of the Municipality's tax revenue—\$19.3 million—will be transferred to the Province to fund services such as education, libraries, policing, and assessment. Education costs alone rose by \$828,000, following last year's \$973,000 increase, while policing costs increased by \$434,000, building on a \$670,000 rise in 2024.

That leaves \$25.7 million to fund essential local services such as wastewater treatment, environmental planning, recreation, and solid waste management.

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2025

Nova Scotia welcomed 253 new doctors between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, a net gain of 187 doctors working in the province, almost twice the net gain in the year before. Of the 253 new doctors, 89 are family doctors and 164 are specialists. This includes 18 specialists who started work at the IWK Health Centre. Nova Scotia Health recruited 30 medical residents, which is 56 per cent of the total Dalhousie Family Medicine residents in Atlantic Canada. Of the 75 finishing residents, Nova Scotia Health recruited 37, representing 49 per cent of Dalhousie residents across various specialties.

Council Committee, at its April 10th committee meeting, unanimously recommended Council, enter into a new Airport Operator Agreement with the Truro Flying Club for one year, under the same terms and conditions as the previous agreement" Carried.

Recommendations from the Nominating Committee usually are presented to Council at the end of the month, however, at their meeting on March 27, 2025, Council granted authority to April Council Committee to approve recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held on April 7, 2025, to review expressions of interest from:

- Council members for the newly formed Regional Tourism Society*. *Council appointed Councillor Johnson to serve on the Regional Tourism Society Committee.*
- Citizen and business representatives for the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee. *Council appointed Jason Giffin to serve as a business representative, and Christine Chalmers to serve as a citizen representative on the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee.*
- Citizen representative for the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee. *Council appointed Matt Kenny as a citizen representative on the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee.*



The Lower Portapique Bridge on Trunk 2 is closed for repairs until further notice. Tom Taggart, MLA advised the Shoreline Journal shortly after lunch on April 1st that the bridge was undergoing a detailed inspection and it was expected it would be closed. This photo taken at entrance to Joy Laking Art Gallery shows the detour barricade. The detours are East Montrose Road and West Montrose Road adding about 10 minutes to travel on Hwy 2. For detailed explanation on bridge replacement, please see Tom Taggart's column on Page 5. (Rees Photo)

PUBLIC NOTICE Closure of Lower Truro Spring

The Municipality has made the difficult decision to decommission the Lower Truro Spring due to health, safety, and liability concerns.

While traffic issues and occasional altercations at the site have been factors, the primary issue is that the Municipality does not own the land where the water originates and therefore has limited ability to ensure its ongoing safety.

Since both the fill site and water source are leased—and these agreements are set to expire—closure has been determined to be the most responsible course of action.

Work to dismantle the site will begin soon. The public will receive at least two weeks' notice before the official closure.

We understand this may be disappointing for those who use the spring, and we appreciate your understanding as we prioritize community safety and responsibility.

Ontario, P.E.I. Join Nova Scotia to Remove Barriers

Nova Scotia has received national attention for efforts to remove borders on interprovincial trade.

Now, Prince Edward Island and Ontario have joined the Province by introducing reciprocal legislation that will help foster an environment of mutual recognition of goods, services and labour mobility

between these provinces.

"Leaders across the country are expressing interest in removing trade barriers, and I'm very pleased that P.E.I. and Ontario have tabled legislation to remove all their trade barriers," said Premier Tim Houston, who is also the Minister of Trade.

"This is a significant moment for our country,

and these actions say a lot about our commitment to make our economies stronger. This moment is too important to miss for the sake of all Canadians."

Other provinces and territories have also indicated their willingness to remove barriers, and some have indicated that although they do not have

continued on page 3

Great Village Antiques Exchange

ALWAYS
Buying Estates, Contents
Collections & items of value.

902-668-2149

Open Daily 10-5
April until Christmas

Nova Scotia's Antique Destination
"WE BUY YEAR ROUND" 8728 Hwy #2, Great Village, NS

Here for you.

caldwell roach
INSURANCE

Coverage for all your insurance needs.
Home • Auto • Farm • Travel • Business

www.caldwellroach.com
1-888-511-0777

**GUTTER
DONE**

Certified
Roofing Installer

Div of Mark Bonnell Contracting

- ☑ 5" Seamless Gutter
- ☑ Custom Made On-site
- ☑ Professional Installation
- ☑ Fascia & Soffit
- ☑ Siding, Roofing
- ☑ Sheds & Fences

gutterclean
SYSTEM

902.895.5645
899.2775

**Burchell
MacDougall**
LAWYERS LLP

710 PRINCE STREET, TRURO 902-895-1561
BURCHELLMACDOUGALL.COM