

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Truro Homicide Case Added to Rewards Program

The Province is offering a reward of up to \$150,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the homicide of 23-year-old Zachery Vaughan Kellock.

On January 16, 2024, police responded to a report of a missing person who was last seen at an address on Millbrook First Nation. The investigation has led police to believe that criminality was involved in Mr. Kellock's disappearance. His body has not been recovered, and charges have not been laid.

"Someone may have the missing piece that investigators need," said Becky Druhan, Attorney General and Minister of Justice. "I urge anyone with details about what happened to Mr. Kellock to contact the rewards program and help bring justice and closure for his family, friends and loved ones."

Anyone with information regarding this crime should call the Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program at 1-888-710-9090. People who come forward must provide their name and contact information, and they may be called to testify in court. All calls will be recorded. People who prefer to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers of Nova Scotia at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Canada's First-of-Its-Kind Bioinnovation Centre

Nova Scotia will soon be a major player in the world of bioinnovation thanks to the newly opened Neptune BioInnovation Centre in Dartmouth.

The centre will transform Nova Scotia's bioindustrial landscape and will be a world-leading biofermentation centre, allowing Nova Scotia to compete globally, strengthen domestic supply chains and foster biotechnology advancements across critical sectors, including life sciences, pharmaceuticals, forestry and agriculture.

"The Neptune BioInnovation Centre is not just changing the game for bioinnovation in Nova Scotia, it is creating a whole new one," said Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development. "This investment will attract the best and brightest minds and companies in this sector to Nova Scotia. Their groundbreaking work will commercialize clean technologies for a more sustainable and prosperous future."

The Neptune BioInnovation Centre is a world-class, multi-user facility that is the first of its kind in Canada and one of three in the world. It is projected to create more than 2,400 jobs, \$175 million in salaries and \$74 million in tax revenue and contribute \$334 million annually to the province's gross domestic product.

The Province is investing \$5 million to help transform the 4,738-square-metre (51,000 square feet) facility into new state-of-the-art wet and dry labs that will offer commercial-scale precision fermentation and spray drying capacity.

During the announcement, Beth Mason, Director, Neptune BioInnovation Centre said, "This Neptune asset and planned expansion are a game-changer for the N.S. and Canadian bio-manufacturing sector, building the largest capacity in Canada. This will ensure companies scale and build commercial plants here, generating a critical domestic green supply chain for Canadian manufacturers to compete here and in Europe."

Quick Facts: The centre will help strengthen Nova Scotia's domestic supply chains and promote biotechnology advancements in areas such as smart materials, bioplastics, functional foods, green chemicals, therapeutics and alternative proteins

The centre is an \$18-million public-private partnership with funding committed by the Province, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Next Generation Manufacturing Canada (NGen) and cleantech firm Dispersa

NGen is an industry-led, non-profit organization leading the country's global innovation cluster for advanced manufacturing

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The **Shoreline Journal** Deadline for the June issue of is May 20

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News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

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ucts." He said lifting bans on hydraulic fracturing and uranium mining is central to improving our economic and energy security.

"All of the natural gas used in Nova Scotia flows through the United States," said Premier Houston. "That leaves us exposed to the whims of President Trump. But there's enough natural gas here in Nova Scotia to power the province for nearly 200 years."

The Premier said everyone has a role to play in building a more resilient and independent Nova Scotia: "We will stand up for the interests of Nova Scotians and defend the province from the influence of special interest groups. These groups are

trying to stop development here to the benefit of the United States."

This year's budget contains historic tax cuts that will save the average Nova Scotian family about \$1,000 per year. It also includes the largest capital plan in the Province's history, with \$2.3 billion in funding that will help stimulate the economy. These investments are in addition to additional funds for healthcare and housing.

"The bills passed during this session will help create more economic opportunities for Nova Scotians while helping secure our energy future," said Premier Houston.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at Premier@novascotia.ca or 0 902-424-6600.

News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart

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the Portapique side of the bridge. When I crossed it that night you could see the obvious dip on the upstream side. I asked if we could set up traffic lights and use just the downstream side which appeared to be solid. That was originally approved. Unfortunately, once the level 2 inspection was carried out, it was determined that the bridge was not safe for traffic. That brings us to today.

The plan is to drive piling on each side of the bridge and attach steel "I" beams that run under the bridge and support the weight in the same fashion as the current wooden piles that are currently directly underneath and are failing.

Sounds easy and straight forward! It is not that simple. There needs to be engineering done to ensure the structural integrity of the fix as well as the remaining bridge structure. There is not an engineer just setting around waiting for a bridge to fail. They are working on projects trying to get tenders out for this season. Certainly, this will be and is a priority, but it needs to be in the queue. There needs to be geotechnical work completed to determine the amount and depth of the

new piles. Then right in the middle of the construction season we need to find the equipment to drive the piles.

So why this great big explanation. Because I am getting calls from folks wondering why nothing is being done. Nobody is there working! There are people working on this and I have expressed my urgency. Typically, there would have to be a tender call because the cost of pile driving exceeds the cost for untendered work.

Tenders add six weeks to a project. I have asked for what is often referred to as alternate procurement. You often hear the opposition criticizing the government for not going through the tender process. Government does seem to work slow. In the end, I just want to let people know the process and the challenges, and that I as well as the Department of Public Works understand the inconvenience and the urgency.

Please remember how important it is to buy local. Enjoy the spring!

Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North, (D) - 902-641-2335, tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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unicipality, and the provincial portion of the HST has been cut for new rentals; Housing conditions have been improved for 38,844 households; the five-year goal is 47,900 households; 663 first-time home buyers were supported through the Down Payment Assistance Program;

And 335 publicly owned affordable housing units have been upgraded; with the goal to upgrade 900 units by 2028. The path has been cleared for 3,517 affordable and supportive housing units.

More Retailers Join Nova Scotia Loyal - It will be easier for shoppers to find Nova Scotia products in more of the province's largest retailers. On March 6, Growth and Development Minister Colton LeBlanc announced that Loblaw Companies Limited and Walmart Canada have committed to displaying the Nova Scotia Loyal brand in their stores.

Nova Scotia Loyal signage is already up in all 46 Loblaw-owned stores in the province, which include Real Atlantic Su-

perstore, Your Independent Grocer and No Frills locations. Walmart has started rolling out the branding at its 18 stores.

Other Nova Scotia Loyal initiatives include: the producer labelling pilot program, which provides a 70 per cent rebate, up to \$3,000, for expenses related to putting the Nova Scotia Loyal label on product packaging; an expanded website that includes a searchable database of Nova Scotia farmers, growers, crafters, manufacturers and producers; signs and merchandising support for large and independent retailers across Nova Scotia; consumer loyalty reward programs through Scene+ at Sobeys and Air Miles at the Nova Scotia Liquor Corp. on more than 2,000 local products; 10 per cent instant cash incentives for online farmers' markets and Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia school vouchers.

Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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There have been other developments that have raised many questions, such as all the clearing of trees on particular properties in Debert. At the end of Hudson Road on both sides have been cleared this is private property owned by Irving. I spoke to the regional manager, and he confirmed they were doing a timber salvage operation, removing timber for saw material and biomass. There was a lot of blown down trees and dead wood and this is their standard practice for forestry. At this time there are no other plans for development, and I did ask about replanting.

The other location was the incubator mall near Tim Hortons's, this location that was sold by the Municipality.

I am having a Town hall meeting on May 1st at 6pm at the Debert Fire Hall on Carter Rd. This is for all of District 9 residents, with multiple developments happening in District 9 and particularly in The Debert Business Park, this is an opportunity for everyone to receive information and ask questions.

As always, I am available by phone or email should you need assistance. If I don't have the answer, I will do my best to find it for you.

Marie Benoit, Councillor, District 9 can be contacted at 902-324-9011, mbenoit@colchester.ca

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