

# 25<sup>TH</sup> Cobequid Trail Run Slated for August 24



The following is an overview of activities in the Community Development Department since November 2024, which was presented by Paul Smith, Director, Community Services at the Colchester Council committee meeting on April 10th.

## RECREATION SERVICES Grants to Non-Profit Organizations:

30 applications were submitted for the first half of 2025 and Recreation Services presented funding recommendations for each applicant to Council on March 13, 2025, as per the updated policy. A new process for review and reporting recommendations to Council will now be tiered with evaluations done by Recreation Services, the Di-

rector of Community Development and final review by CAO or designate prior to being reported to Council for approval during budget deliberations.

The application form, guidelines, post grant report form and financial reporting templates for 2025/26 have all been updated to a more user-friendly format and include more information for consideration in the review process. The website has been updated so the new forms could be utilized for this round of grant requests.

### Community Events Grant:

Six applications were submitted and Recreation Services presented funding recommendations for each applicant to Council on March 13, 2025.

The application form,

post grant report form and financial reporting templates for 2025/26 have been updated to be user friendly and include more information for consideration in the review process. The website has also been updated using the new forms for this round of grant requests.

### Events:

The Cobequid Trail Run is scheduled for August 24 which will mark its 25th year. The website will be going live within the next month for registration.

The 2025 Step into Spring Walking Program has been given a fresh new look with an updated logo which now features a sneaker that aligns with the Municipality's branding colors. New prizes have been introduced along

with increased promotion of local walking groups on social media. Registration has been strong which encourages online sign-ups, while providing an alternative way for participants to submit their steps without internet access.

Colchester Bike Week 2025 will take place from June 2-9 and will feature multiple school bike rodeos and a large joint rodeo with the Town of Truro. Last year's community rodeo had a great response, and staff is excited to build on that momentum with even more opportunities for cycling education and engagement.

Staff are pleased to announce the return of the Colchester/Truro Volunteer

Award Recognition Celebration. This event, paused since COVID, has returned, and Colchester Recreation is elevating the nomination process by reaching out to non-profit organizations with the hope for a significant increase in nominations and community participation. While the official date is yet to be confirmed, tentative plans are for June 12.

The 2025 Easter Egg Hunt will once again take place at Nelson Memorial Park and the Fundy Discovery Site, with Debert hosting its own event on Good Friday. Staff are preparing to welcome families on April 12.

This past February, Colchester Recreation collaborated with CCRCE to explore new ways to celebrate African Heritage Month and introduced the first-ever drawing contest for all CCRCE students in the Colchester area, with RECC Day Passes awarded as prizes. Teachers and support workers were enthusiastic about this new initiative. Staff are now working with the CCRCE to develop a potential Black Excellence Day event.

## The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Continued from page 8

### Changes to Residential Tenancies Program

New rules and processes under the Residential Tenancies Program will improve efficiency and communication for tenants and landlords.

Changes include new timelines and clearer conditions for ending a tenancy, including three late rent payments, criminal behaviour, disturbing another tenant or the landlord, or extraordinary damage to a rental unit.

Landlords will be able to notify tenants three days after their rent is due that their lease can end if they don't pay their rent. This does not mean tenants will have to leave their unit. The tenant will have 10 days after receiving the notice to either pay their rent, leave the unit or appeal to the Residential Tenancies Program.

The new notification timeline is consistent with other provinces. Nova Scotia previously had the longest wait times in the country, putting many landlords at financial risk.

Other changes include: New requirements for landlords to provide email addresses if their tenants do so, making it easier for the tenant to communicate with their landlord, particularly in situations where the landlord is not on-site; publishing online some of the decisions from residential tenancies hearings, called residential tenancies director's orders, to help people understand what they can expect from the program;

establishing a common anniversary date for land-lease communities, such as mobile home parks, for changing or implementing rules, and posting rules in an area that is accessible by all community tenants and improving the process for tenants and landlords when a landlord of a land-lease community applies to charge rent above the annual allowable rent increase amount.

Changes come into effect April 30.

### Province Extends Interim Funding to Wine Growers

The Province is extending the interim farm wine program and committing \$7.4 million over the next two years for registered grape farm wineries.

"We appreciate the high-quality wines produced in Nova Scotia and the overall impacts of the farm wineries to our rural economies," said Agriculture Minister Greg Morrow. "We made a commitment to follow up with Wine Growers Nova Scotia on longer-term funding, and we look forward to productive discussions."

The Department is investing \$3.7 million per year for the two-year extension of the interim program.

There are 22 registered grape farm wineries in Nova Scotia. The interim wine support is modelled on the Wine Sector Support Program through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Department also administers the \$700,000 Wine and Grape Industry Development Program.

### New Supportive Housing for Youth, Young Families

More youth and young families will soon have access to safe, supportive housing through a partnership between Phoenix Youth Programs, the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia and the Province.

Two fully refurbished apartment buildings in Halifax will provide supportive housing for 22 youth aged 16 to 24 or young families. All 12 units have two bedrooms, with shared living space. Young people with children do not share space. There is a communal laundry room on-site and each bathroom has a tub.

Utilities, including electricity, water and internet, are included; residents pay 30 per cent of their gross income each month, to a maximum of \$500. Income could include employment earnings or support from government programs such as employment insurance, income assistance or disability support.

Residents have help from Phoenix Youth Programs staff specializing in youth outreach and support services, who will be on-site around the clock.

Opportunities and Social Development is providing \$541,000 for operational expenses and support services; Growth and Development provided a \$3.68-million loan toward the property purchase through the Community Housing Acquisition Program (CHAP).

CHAP supports community housing organizations to preserve existing affordable housing units by providing a fixed interest rate loan of up to \$10 million per acquisition, to purchase existing multi-unit residential properties and more than \$32 million has been loaned to community housing organizations to purchase 526 affordable housing units for 24 projects since CHAP launched in July 2022.

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## Tick Safety Important Across Nova Scotia

Tick populations are growing in every part of Nova Scotia, urban and rural. With the temperature above freezing, it is important for people to take the necessary steps to protect themselves, their family and pets.

"Ticks are not just a nuisance, they carry serious diseases," said Provincial Medical Officer of Health Dr. Jennifer Cram. "That's why it's important to take simple precautions like using insect repellents before you spend time outdoors and checking for ticks on your body daily."

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can often be found in areas of high vegetation such as tall grass, shrubs, urban parks, gardens and forests.

There are several kinds of ticks in Nova Scotia, including

the blacklegged tick, which is known to transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Powassan virus infection.

People can reduce their risk by: checking their clothing and body carefully for ticks after spending time outside; wearing long pants and long sleeves in areas likely to have ticks; wearing light-coloured clothing (light colours make it easier to see ticks); wearing enclosed shoes and tucking their pants into their socks; walking on well-travelled paths, avoiding long grass and vegetation and applying insect repellents approved by Health Canada to exposed skin and clothes (following directions carefully).

People with questions or concerns about tick safety or tick-borne diseases can call

811 or the Nova Scotia Health Tick Hotline at 902-266-7199 or toll-free at 1-866-266-7199.

Local pharmacists can assess tick bites and determine if a preventive antibiotic is needed. More information is at:

<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/pharmacare/healthcare-services.asp>

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**Presentations Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 6 @ 6pm

**Council Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, May 15 @ 6pm

**Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 27 @ 6pm

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