

The Shoreline Journal

Tid-Bits

Short reads of important stories.

Vicki Harvey appointed Interim CEO

Autism Nova Scotia, founded in 2002 by Joan and Jack Craig, is a non-profit organization that supports Autistic people, their families, and caregivers through advocacy, education, and programming has appointed Vicki Harvey as Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Vicki has been part of Autism Nova Scotia since its early beginnings. In the interim role, Vicki will provide continuity and direction during a pivotal time for the organization, working closely with staff, communities, and government partners.

Barnhill Bridge, Belmont is closed

The Barnhill Bridge on Belmont Road, located between Cross Road and Plains Road, is closed until further notice. Detour signs are in place.

Volunteer Awards Call for Nominations

Nova Scotians are encouraged to nominate an exceptional volunteer - individual, group or organization - in their community for the 2026 Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Nominations are now open in four categories: Newcomer Volunteer Award, for a newcomer who demonstrated extraordinary outreach to and volunteerism in their new community; Youth Volunteer Award, for a volunteer aged 13 to 24; Family Volunteer Award, for a family of two or more people living in the same community and Nova Scotia Strong Award, recognizing resilience during a time of tragedy or struggle.

Award winners will be recognized along with volunteer representatives from communities across Nova Scotia at the 52nd annual Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony in Halifax on September 28.

Natalie MacMaster to be honoured

St. Francis Xavier University will honour three distinguished individuals at its Spring Convocation ceremonies on Sunday, May 3, presenting the degree Doctor of Laws honoris causa upon Natalie MacMaster, one of Canada's most celebrated fiddlers; Mi'kmaq Elder Kerry Prosper '09, whose decades of leadership have advanced Mi'kmaq cultural practices and strengthened advocacy for Indigenous rights; and Mark Wallace '80, a respected business leader and philanthropist known for his principled leadership and lasting community impact.

Federation Literacy Award Nominations

Nova Scotians are invited to celebrate exceptional achievements in literacy and learning by submitting a nomination for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. This national award recognizes and celebrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

Each year, Canada's premiers present an adult learner in each province and territory with an award for learning and leadership progress in their community, workplace or school. More information and nomination forms are available at <https://novascotia.ca/lae/cof-literacy-award.asp> or by calling toll-free 1-877-466-7725. The deadline for nominations is June 12.

Skilled Trades Strategy for African Nova Scotians

The Province's new African Nova Scotian Skilled Trades Strategy aims to recruit, retain and support youth in the sector. Developed in partnership with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency and The PREP Academy, the strategy is supported by a \$480,000 investment over two years to help strengthen the province's skilled workforce.

The initiative includes one-on-one coaching for apprentices, career navigation for youth exploring trades pathways, and programming for families and caregivers.

The PREP Academy will work closely with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, Nova Scotia Community College, employers, sector councils and community organizations to deliver culturally relevant training and mentorship. The strategy recognizes both the opportunities for African Nova Scotian youth in the skilled trades and Nova Scotia's significant need for skilled workers.

continued on page 7

Notes from our Federal Capital - Alana Hirtle, MP

Continued from page 5

desperately use a community hub, a shelter, a veterans' resource centre. Right now, the system for dealing with these properties is slow, piecemeal, and inconsistent. One community gets lucky. Another doesn't. It's like we're making it up as we go. And that's not good enough.

What I'm pushing for is a national strategy. A real one. A plan that looks at all of this underused federal real estate from coast to coast and asks the question: what does this community actually need? And then — crucially — how do we make that happen?

Veterans are at the centre of this for me. I sit on the Veterans Affairs Committee. I hear, regularly, about gaps in support — housing, mental health resources, transition services. And I keep thinking: we have the buildings. We have the land. We have the opportunity to do something transformational here, if we're willing to think big and work together. We're not there yet.

Getting a Private Member's Motion through Parliament takes time and coalition-building and patience. But the conversations are happening. Support is growing. The idea is landing. And I'd rather be making real progress toward a real solution than making noise about a problem I'm not actually trying to solve.

Remembering Portapique

This month also brought us to April 18th and 19th — the sixth anniversary of the tragedy in Portapique and the surrounding areas. Six years since we lost 22 people who were our neighbours, our friends, our family members, our colleagues. People who enriched our everyday lives in ways that don't make headlines, but that we feel every single day in their absence.

I want to say their names, because they deserve to be spoken: Kristen Beaton and her unborn child, Tom Bagley, Lillian Campbell, Greg Blair, Jamie Blair, Sean McLeod, Joy Bond, Peter Bond, Lisa McCully, Corrie Ellison. Gina Goulet. Alanna Jenkins, Dawn Gulenchyn, Frank Gulenchyn, Heather O'Brien, Jolene Oliver, Constable Heidi Stevenson, Aaron Tuck, Elizabeth Joanne Thomas, John Zahl, Joey Webber and Emily Tuck.

There are no words adequate to this. There is only the commitment to remember — and to honour them by continuing to build the kind of community that would make them proud.

In these six years, I have watched this community do exactly that. The resilience here is not a cliché. It is real, and it is hard-won, and it is something I carry with me every time I stand up to speak on behalf of Cumberland-Colchester. We have held each other through the darkest of days. We will keep doing that.

Spring is here. The work continues. And I am so glad to be doing it alongside you.



Alana Hirtle is the Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester and serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations. Alana has two offices for face-to-face services:

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Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Letter To the Editor,

For 14 years I led Glen Haven Manor and helped found the Nursing Homes of Nova Scotia Association. I've learned this: the true return on investment in care systems is investing in the people who care for others. When we listened to, supported, and protected our caregivers, care quality, trust, and resilience rose—returns measured not only in charts but in courage and continuity.

COVID-19 revealed a fundamental truth: essential workers are the engine of a capable, compassionate society. We didn't need them only in a crisis; we depended on them every day. Their courage and reliability kept residents cared for under extraordinary strain. If we value that contribution, we must honor it in policy and practice—wages, safety, and opportunity that shape lives long after headlines fade.

Leadership is steady, humble action. It's earned through responsibility, transparency, and listening—really listening—to frontline workers. When frontline voices are heard, decisions become more humane and effective. When workers feel safe and able to

grow, they stay, learn, and lift the organization.

When faced with a staffing pinch, we asked caregivers what would help them do their jobs with dignity. We adapted, not from top-down command but shared responsibility. The result was gradual, sustained improvement: lower turnover and steadier care.

Now is the moment to turn this truth into action. I urge policymakers, business leaders, and civic partners to adopt a Care First Compact: living wages and benefits, sustained training and clear career pathways, safe staffing, and frontline voices at every level of governance. Contact your representatives, support frontline organizations, and demand transparent, accountable progress on care quality and worker safety. Act today for a stronger, more compassionate future.

It is time to recognize that care is a public good, and so we must protect it from piecemeal strategies that do not honor those who provide it. The long, drawn-out approach of a few facilities—picketing one after another while understaffed departments strain to cover—leaves behind skeleton crews and creates mount-

ing stress and anxiety for families, residents, and staff waiting for their turn.

If the residents of our nursing homes—who are the builders of our communities, protectors of our nation and architects of our freedoms, are to earn our trust, we must demand plans that safeguard care, safety, and dignity for all.

They deserve a system that values caring as a public good, not a budget line to slash.

Let us prove that care yields dividends for every resident, every family, and every community we serve together.

Sincerely,
Lisa M. Smith, Former CEO - Glen Haven Manor

OP-ED Touquoy Mine to reclaim 3-Million Tonnes

By Kim Masland

On April 10, industrial approval was granted for new work at the Touquoy gold mine site in Moose River, Halifax County. This approval will allow Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia to process about three million tonnes of stockpiled ore at the existing site, putting a significant resource back into production.

This approval will create about 197 jobs and generate an estimated \$151 million in economic activity for Nova Scotia.

This is the second major gold mine approval in the past year, following the Goldboro gold mine in Guysborough County. Together, these two projects represent more than a billion dol-

lars in economic activity and close to a thousand jobs for Nova Scotians.

Each of these approvals comes with strict terms and conditions governing environmental protection, water quality monitoring and tailings management. Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia is required to meet these conditions and the Province will ensure compliance.

Nova Scotia's mineral resources are creating real economic opportunities for our communities, and I look forward to continuing to support responsible resource development across the province.

Kim Masland is Natural Resources Minister, Province of Nova Scotia

Guardian

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