

## PAGE BRIEFS

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**The Nova Scotia Music Week 2016** conference will see some of the top music publishers and rights management professionals in Canada attend the event to provide a full day of business training for delegates. Nova Scotia Music Week 2016 takes place in Truro, November 3-6. American indie star David Lowery from the group Cracker will be on hand to deliver a keynote address on artist rights in the digital age and his world famous lawsuit against Spotify. Along with Lowery, the conference will feature Nashville based music photographer and blogger Stacie Huckeba who will deliver a keynote on the issue of sexism in the music industry.

**Four of the 22 nurse** practitioners and family practice nurses being hired throughout the province will serve the New Glasgow, Westville, Stellarton, and the Truro areas. It is anticipated that 2,400 more patients in those Northern Nova Scotia communities will be able to join a collaborative health team.

The province is committing an extra \$3.6 million to hire 13 more nurse practitioners and nine family practice nurses across the province. The mix of professionals may change, depending on community needs and the recruitment process. "By working together, doctors, nurse practitioners, family practice nurses and other professionals can offer better care to more Nova Scotians," said Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey, on behalf of Health and Wellness Minister Leo Glavine during the announcement.

**The Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame** Induction Awards Night will be held on Saturday, November 12 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. Seven distinguished Nova Scotians who have inspired and motivated us with their sporting accomplishments will be duly inducted into the Hall of Fame. For information and tickets: [www.nsshf.com](http://www.nsshf.com)

**Nova Scotia's deficit** of \$11 million over 2015-16 is the lowest in five years, says a new report released October 11<sup>th</sup> by Auditor General Michael A. Pickup. However, five-year trends show that both long-term and net debt have increased. Two new organizations were created by the government this year, the Nova Scotia Health Authority and Tourism Nova Scotia. Tourism Nova Scotia did not comply with the Finance Act of Nova Scotia in meeting the June 30th financial statement reporting deadline in its first year of operations. However, the Health Authority, a \$2 billion operation, received a clean audit opinion on its first year and met its financial reporting deadline. The auditor general did note a number of areas for improvement including restricted funds being borrowed for operations, even though the Department of Health and Wellness owed the authority more than \$70 million. The authority also needs to review its overall internal control environment, and determine the best way to address deficiencies like journal entry postings and changes to human resource information.

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## Letters to the Editor

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years, with residents accustomed to the delays and grief that these events deliver. Following an unprecedented flood of the area in September of 2012, Lenore Zann, MLA for Truro- Bible Hill- Millbrook-Salmon River, successfully lobbied the provincial government to invest in flood mitigation. During the past four years, investments to dredge a number of rivers, stabilize the dikes, improve infrastructure and address historical problem areas have successfully reduced the frequency and duration of road closures brought on by flooding.

Witness the rain the province received on Thanksgiving 2016, where communities in Cape Breton faced unthinkable damage from flooding, while our own community was spared any appreciable damage or inconvenience. A clear demonstration of the value these investments have to the economy and appeal of Truro and Colchester County.

Continuing the efforts of the Joint Flood Advisory Committee, to invest and maintain the rivers, dikes and infrastructure is important to the area. These efforts provide confidence to the residents while supporting productivity to our business community, further allowing them to remain competitive.

**Andrew Lake**  
President, Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce



### News from our Provincial Capital

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current primary residence and it must be your year round home. If you qualify for Home Warming an energy audit will be conducted to determine the energy efficiency upgrades required. To determine if you are eligible contact Efficiency Nova Scotia at 1-877-434-2136 (toll free) or by visiting [HomeWarming.ca](http://HomeWarming.ca).

Another program for low income families is the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP). The HARP program is available to Nova Scotians who buy energy to heat their homes with oil, electricity, natural gas, wood, wood pellets, coal, or other heating source and you may be eligible to receive a rebate on those costs and eligibility is based on program requirements. Service Nova Scotia, as of October 31, 2016, is accepting applications for the HARP program to help with up to \$200 toward home heating costs. Those who were recipients of the HARP program last year will receive an application automatically to ensure that the process is as convenient as possible for homeowners. Last year,

almost 42,600 people and families received a rebate from the Heating Assistance Rebate Program.

The new online system will allow Nova Scotians to apply for the rebate online, and will allow both those who apply online and by paper form to check the status of their application online in real time. Before now, applicants had to call Service Nova Scotia to ask for an update on their application. Those registered for direct deposit with Canada Revenue Agency can also receive their rebate directly to their bank account.

HARP paper applications will still be available by contacting the Public Enquiries phone number at 1-800-670-4357, at Access Nova Scotia locations, Department of Community Services' offices, MLA offices and through more than 70 community groups, and other locations across the province. Go to <http://www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp> for more information and to apply online.

**Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North**

### News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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Should there be a negative impact, steps must be taken to ensure these potential impacts are negated. Keep in mind I have stated before, the Bay of Fundy and the Minas Basin are one of our greatest assets. It is my intention to start to hold public meetings to try to ensure the facts and any research, is available to all.

Another challenge or opportunity, I hope, will be waste to energy. Many will be aware I have written many times on the cost and potential of garbage. Our council has spent the past five years gathering information and watching/ waiting for this technology to be improved and Proven. I believe we are getting close.

I feel we are close to working with the Town of Truro and the business community to work together on Economic Development in some form. These are all significant larger projects. There will be many new challenges that pop up as time goes on.

I can assure you Colchester County has the staff; senior management; council and leadership to ensure any and all these challenges are met and taken advantage of. I have said many times before Colchester County is in a very strong position relative to other municipal governments in Nova Scotia. Our geographic location plays a part in that, however it is largely due to strong and forward thinking councils over the past 30 plus years.

It has been a pleasure to have been a part of those councils for the past eight and I look forward to the next four. Once again thank you for the opportunity.

Tom

**Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County**

### News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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bridge and its condition. TIR as assured me this is on their radar to be repaired, possibly by next summer. Their plan is to repair the asphalt on the deck and improve the approaches.

Before I move onto something else I would like to remind my constituents that TIR is a provincially run and funded department which as a County Councillor I have very little input into any decision making on their part. The Mayor and staff do meet with representatives of TIR every three months and bring concerns from all councillor's constituents to the table.

I need to comment on recent news reports regarding the Nova Scotia Ombudsman calling for a forensic examination of Richmond County's finances. Allegedly, senior staff and elected officials spent tens of thousands of tax payers' dollars on travel, alcohol and many other forms of entertainment. I can't believe this day 'n age, a municipal government wouldn't have the proper

safeguards in place to prevent such a misuse of public funds from happening in the first place.

The provincial government is calling for all municipal Officials expenses to be made public, on line, the same as theirs are. I am in full support of this and any other form of publication of municipal expenses. I want to reassure you the proper safeguards are in place in the County of Colchester.

Just in case you're wondering, below are the totals for my municipal expenses for each of the first three years as your councillor in district #9. Year 2013/14 - \$929.97; 2014/15 - \$934.75 and 2015 to date - \$666.49.

If you have any concerns or issues about something happening, even if it's not in District 9, please don't hesitate to email or call me ([councillordistrict9@colchester.ca](mailto:councillordistrict9@colchester.ca) or Ph # 902-895-2242). Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and I hope to see you all out at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

**Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County**

## Flood Relief Concert

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Nigel Kearns, says the event is meant to raise money for families and individuals, who have suffered losses and are struggling with the basic necessities.

The event will be coordinated on social media with the hashtag #floodgiving2016. Announcements will be made via Twitter using the handle @floodgiving,

FaceBook #floodgiving2016 and [www.floodgiving.com](http://www.floodgiving.com).

There are only 300 tickets available. Price is \$35. All proceeds to Cape Breton Flood Relief. Disbursement of funds will be through United Way Cape Breton. For tickets: Dominion Chair Factory Store; Natalie, 902-647-2255; Micheline, 902-647-2985 or Debbie, 902-647-2753.

Email your comments and suggestions to:  
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