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Nova Scotians of all ages are encouraged to get the annual influenza vaccine. The vaccine is now available from most pharmacists, family doctors, family practice nurses and nurse practitioners. Many workplaces also offer flu vaccination clinics for employees. Families with children under the age of five can also arrange their vaccination through the local Public Health office. Influenza vaccine is free for all Nova Scotians. The province will provide the quadrivalent vaccine which contains two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains. For more information, visit <http://novascotia.ca/flu>

RCMP investigate after abandoned side-by-side is struck by train. Colchester District RCMP and Millbrook RCMP is investigating after a train struck an abandoned 2015 black Artic Cat side-by-side as it sat on the tracks in Hilden. Just before 1 a.m. on October 7th Colchester District RCMP, Millbrook RCMP, and RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS), along with EHS and Hilden Fire Department, were dispatched to a report of an abandoned side-by-side that was heavily damaged after it was struck by a slow moving train. RCMP PDS searched the area, along with the Hilden Fire Department, who utilized a Flir, a thermal imaging infrared camera, and determined that there was no one in the area nor was there any indication anyone was injured. The investigation has determined that the side-by-side was stolen from an automotive dealership in Millbrook prior to this incident. RCMP is asking anyone with information about these two incidents to contact them at 902 893-6819 (Millbrook RCMP), 902 893-6820 (Colchester District RCMP), or 1 800-803-RCMP (7267).

Doctors Nova Scotia has provided the government notice of its intention to ask the courts to settle two contract issues with the provincial government. The association has been working to resolve these issues for 12 months. All doctors in the province could be impacted if the contract issues are not addressed. Under dispute are the government's use of unapproved contracts for Alternative Payment Plan (APP) physicians and monies owed to Doctors Nova Scotia for the physicians' health and dental plan and other benefits. In the last 12 months the government has not made any payments for physicians' health benefits as agreed to in the Master Agreement contract. To date, the government owes more than \$4 million to Doctors Nova Scotia for these programs. These funds are used to support the physicians' health and dental plan, parental leave and professional support program.

Legislation to help the province's municipalities and villages be more consistent and accountable for expense reporting was introduced September 28. Amendments to the Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter will: strengthen municipal expense policies and practices; require municipalities and villages to post individual and hospitality expenses online; require a municipal code of conduct; restrict repayment of alcohol expenses to municipal hospitality events only - no individual alcohol expenses and improve municipal audits and strengthen audit committees. The changes will apply to municipal and village heads of staff and all elected municipal officials.

Government introduced amendments to the Pre-primary Education Act on September 27 giving school boards explicit authority to deliver the provincial pre-primary program to four-year-olds across the province. The amendments will: allow school boards, subject to approval, the authority to enter into an agreement with a provider to deliver pre-primary education in their community; provide the minister of Education and Early Childhood Development the legislative authority to enter agreements regarding funding for the pre-primary program and introduce language into the act to improve the clarity of the legislation.

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An idle lumber yard site at 2715 Hwy 4, Glenholme is starting to get busy again as Nova Tree has already started processing wood into chips and mulch. The company anticipates completing the move from Willow Lane, Truro sometime in November. Even though there's a lot to move, the company will be operational through the move, and will be operational all winter. A grand opening will be scheduled in spring 2018. (Rees Photo)



Jim Verboom, owner of Nova Tree has been busy coordinating the gradual move of his company's operations from 2 Willow Lane, Truro to 2715, Hwy 4, Glenholme. He anticipates approximately 70 truck loads of lumber, lumber products, wood chips, mulch and other products offered by the company. (Rees Photo)

Thirteen Drivers Facing Charges

A number of motor vehicle infractions has resulted in 13 drivers travelling in the Kempton area facing a number of charges. On October 20th between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Colchester District RCMP and RCMP Northwest Traffic Services conducted traffic enforcement on Highway 104 in Kempton.

As a result, 1 driver was charged for stunting after their vehicle was clocked at 167 km/h in a 110 km/hr zone. 5 other drivers are facing charges for speeding in excess of 140 km/h, 7 drivers were charged for failing to move over for an emergency vehicle; and 2 drivers received warnings for infractions under the

Motor Vehicle Act.

The RCMP want to remind the public that speed is one of the major causes of serious injury and fatal collisions on our roads. Furthermore, it is imperative that drivers remember they are required under the Motor Vehicle Act to move into an available lane and/or slow to 60 kph when passing an emergency vehicle. RCMP officers continue to educate motorists on the Motor Vehicle Act while conducting enforcement initiatives and ask that people be accountable for their actions while driving.

If you see someone driving unsafely on our roads, report it by calling RCMP at 911.

29% Colchester Toddlers Live in Poverty

By Maurice Rees

Twenty-nine percent of children (under 6 years old) in the Truro area live in poverty according to 2013 Truro Census area according to Colchester Communities Vital Signs report. The information is contained in a 40+ page publication developed from a study conducted by the United Way Colchester County. The committee's report will be released on November 16th at the Colchester-East Hants Public Library.

Economic Development Director, Mark Austin, updated council on The Colchester Communities Vital Signs project, which seeks to measure the vitality of communities, identify significant trends, and support actions on issues critical to quality of life. It does this by compiling information and statistics in an engaging print format to assist communities in assessing achievements and needs in key areas such as Economy & Work, Housing, Belonging, Environment, and Learning. Colchester's funds contributed to an overall project budget of \$21,500, with other sources being: \$10,750 from the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia,

\$2,500 from the Town of Truro, \$600 Town of Stewiacke, and the rest from the United Way of Colchester County, the Central Nova Women's Resource Centre, and a private contributor.

Contents of the report are embargoed until the middle of November, but it's full of important and startling information. The report also reveals the various costs for the National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB) for Colchester County as follows: One Senior, \$322; Adult Male, \$370; Adult Female, \$390 and two children, \$290. The NNFB findings indicates typically higher costs in rural areas than in urban centres. The average monthly cost of the NNFB for a family of four living in rural Colchester County is \$34.81 per month more than the cost of basic nutritious diet in grocery stores in urban centres.

The final report of the project will be printed as a publication. A publication launch event is scheduled for 8:00 am on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at the Colchester East-Hants Regional Library in Truro with Mayor Blair participating with remarks from the municipality.

Three Arrested for Wearing Colours

Three members of the Gatekeepers Outlaw Motorcycle Gang are facing charges of Uttering Threats and Criminal Harassment. On October 9 Halifax District RCMP, with assistance from Colchester District RCMP, East Hants District RCMP and Halifax Regional Police K-9, responded to a disturbance at a home on Highway 224 in Upper Musquodoboit.

Three suspects on motorcycles matching description of the suspects were located and placed under arrest without incident. At the time, they were wearing Gatekeepers Outlaw Motorcycle Gang paraphernalia. As a result, it was seized as part of

the investigation. A fourth man was arrested the following day.

"The presence of Outlaw Motorcycle Gang paraphernalia and clothing during the commission of an offence is used as a weapon of intimidation and reinforces the connection between Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and criminality," says Insp. Jason Popik, Operations Officer. "Based on the investigation to date, the individuals were wearing their gang colours as a means to send a message and inspire fear in the victims which is why we seized them."

The investigation is ongoing.

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