

# The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Continued from page 11

## Physicians among lowest paid

Doctors Nova Scotia, Maritime Resident Doctors and the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society have released a position paper, *Road Map to a Stable Physician Workforce*, which calls on the provincial government to take immediate action to stabilize the physician workforce in Nova Scotia. The paper contains six recommendations to improve physician retention and recruitment, ultimately improving access to care for Nova Scotians: (1). Pay physicians competitively; (2). Introduce a new blended payment model for family medicine; (3). Invest in succession planning; (4). Improve physician engagement; (5). Change the focus of billing audits; and (6). Reduce administrative burden for physicians so they can spend more time with patients. Nova Scotia physicians are among the lowest paid in the country and are often the lowest paid in Atlantic Canada. Paying Nova Scotia physicians competitively and creating a new blended payment model to support comprehensive and collaborative primary care would greatly improve the province's ability to attract specialists and family doctors. In family medicine, for example, the province's biggest recruitment competitors are New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Both provinces pay more competitively and New Brunswick offers a blended payment model. By offering more attractive compensation and similar funding models as our neighbouring provinces, Nova Scotia will be better positioned to recruit and retain physicians.

## Easier access to PTSD benefits

It will be easier for frontline and emergency response workers with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) to access workers' compensation benefits as of October 26<sup>th</sup>. Changes to the Workers' Compensation Act introduced last year mean those in frontline and emergency response occupations no longer have to prove that a diagnosis of PTSD is work-related. WCB has established a dedicated team of case workers to better meet the needs of those with psychological workplace injuries, including PTSD. Those case workers receive ongoing education from mental health clinicians. Over the next year, WCB will also develop an evidence-based PTSD prevention program in collaboration with first responders. Eligible workers are police, paid and volunteer firefighters, paramedics, nurses, correctional officers (including youth workers in a correctional facility), continuing care assistants, emergency-response dispatchers and sheriffs covered by the board. Eligible workers with a PTSD diagnosis received on or after Oct. 26, 2013, even if they were denied benefits in the past, can refile a claim. To begin the claim process, or for more information on how to file a claim, call 1-800-870-3331. For more information on the regulations, visit [www.novascotia.ca/presumptive-ptsd](http://www.novascotia.ca/presumptive-ptsd).

## Assessments of long-term care residents

A new electronic system will enhance quality of care in long-term care facilities across Nova Scotia. The International Resident Assessment Instrument for Long Term Care Facilities, commonly called interRAI, will allow health professionals to complete standardized assessments of residents in long-term care. A request for proposals was issued October 19, to hire the team that will buy and oversee the implementation of the interRAI system. The online care management tool will help staff identify important health issues among residents, develop appropriate care plans and monitor the progress of residents or changes in health on an ongoing basis. InterRAI will also support consistent collection of data. The system will be able to generate reports that are specific to residents and facilities. The data will be used to measure quality and areas for improvement. InterRAI will also facilitate reporting to the Canadian Institute for Health Information. This investment is part of a 10-year federal funding commitment of \$286 million for initiatives related to youth, mental health, home and community care announced in August.

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## Deregistration of Lower Economy Hall

By Maurice Rees

At the request of the Board of Trustees of the Lower Economy Hall Colchester Council held a public meeting at the start



The Lower Economy Hall at 42 Memory Lane, Lower Economy has been deregistered as municipal heritage property and is now for sale. (Photo courtesy Cumberland Realty)

of its October 25 monthly meeting and deregistered the hall from the list of municipal registered historic properties.

The Hall, which has not been used for 10 years, was built in 1895 to serve as a Presbyterian Hall and later a Community Hall. The hall was built of wood frame construction. The building was registered as a municipal heritage property on October 30, 1997, by County Council. It is the last remaining Municipal heritage property in the Lower Economy area. The building has been listed with Royal LePage Cumberland Realty and is being advertised as in good condition with potential for conversion into a summer cot-

tage or artist studio. At this time, there is no heat source, well or on-site septic system installed. The lot is 6,216 square feet in area with the 2 story building being 1,452 square feet in size with a foot print of 33' x 22'. To date, only one other property has been deregistered, which was the United Church in Portauipique in 2007.



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# The Savvy Shopper

in Downtown Truro

Lots of things to do during November. Remember to wear a poppy and take in the Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11th. The Downtown will light up for Christmas on November 16, with the tree lighting and carol sing. Truro's largest parade, the Christmas Parade takes place on November 17. **This Christmas - Shop Local!**

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Deadline for the December issue is November 20.

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