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Town of Stewiacke will receive \$31,286 towards a well field search. The Provincial Capital Assistance Program is investing \$690,000 in the provincial-municipal cost-shared program. Projects that will be supported include expansion design for wastewater facilities, and studies on wastewater and sewage treatment plants.

Wentworth Recreation Centre, 13752 Highway 4 is hosting the 28th Annual Community Christmas Craft Fair, on November 27th. Hundreds of customers are expected to keep the venues filled from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. As is tradition in many small rural communities, several community groups join forces to cooperate to offer a shopping experience and make it worthwhile for carloads of people to attend the event. Other venues in the community are participating including: Old Valley Schoolhouse, Baptist Church, United Church, and the Learning Centre. Admission of \$3 gets shoppers access to all 5 locations up and down Highway 4. The Rec Centre will provide a full menu at its canteen and other venues will also offer a variety of refreshments. For information, contact Barb Palmer at wentworth.crafts@gmail.com or call 902-897-8372. Shoppers will enjoy a large selection to shop for handmade crafts from all over Northern Nova Scotia and great home cooking at a delicious lunch.

The Wentworth Recreation Centre at 13752 Highway 4 is hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre on November 10th. The event will begin with social at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Purchase tickets online at squareup.com/store/wentworth-recreation-centre. For information, call Laurel at 902 899-3634. You will enjoy a hilarious, suspenseful, interactive, theatrical experience!

More businesses across the province are investing in improvements to their establishments, making them more accessible to persons with disabilities. So far 24 businesses throughout the province will receive \$580,000 under the Business ACCESS-Ability program to cost share accessibility-related improvements. Funding supports improvements such as removing physical barriers, providing accessible communication and information, accessible shuttle transportation and education and training programs. None of the successful applications were located in Cumberland or Colchester Counties. The Business ACCESS-Ability program is still open to applications. More information about the program is available at: <https://cch.novascotia.ca/business-access-ability-grant-program>.

General deer hunting season in Nova Scotia began October 26, and continues to Saturday, December 1. Hunters are required to carry a compass and waterproof matches. Anyone going into the woods should also carry a map or GPS unit, a first-aid kit and a communications device. They should tell someone when and where they will be in the woods. Those planning to be in the woods this time of year should put safety first and wear orange. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays during the season except for Oct. 28 and Nov. 4.

Why We Have Cannabis

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Many proclaim ailments arise to hear of elementary students trying it.

We can't afford to "Fight the War on Drugs" is a statement which gained popularity.

Finally nearly 60 years later, various levels of government are looking for the "Tax Grab".

The era of the "Bootlegger" for that extra pint or case of beer lasted for 80 years, but subsided in Nova Scotia, when "NSLC Agency Stores" provided more local access and helped maintain the economic viability of "selected" rural retailers.

With the availability of "legal cannabis" don't think the black market sellers will be eliminated.

Each household can legally grow four plants (15-20 with a medical designation). Some people will attempt to grow it, but get discouraged.

Possession of small amounts (30 grams) of cannabis possession is legal.

The "black market" will not fade away. Some budding entrepreneurs might set up facilities to grow the weed for you, similar to some businesses brewing your beer or making your wine.

Continued success of the black market will be based on pricing, convenience to buy, supporting a "local entrepreneur" and knowing where it was grown.

Not enough research has been done to determine the full extent of medical benefits:

Many proclaim ailments have been "cured or more easily manageable" by using cannabis, instead of taking prescriptions written by the family medical doctor.

Now that it's legal, if the medical profession can be convinced, (which will take time) they should look for and accept proven alternative solutions to bottles of pills.

To achieve this, the monies pharmaceutical companies pay doctors must be outlawed.

Any monies doctors receive from drug companies must be deducted "off the top" of what they receive from the provincial treasury or re-directed to research.

If medical benefits exist, as I believe they do, requires all to have an open mind. If it can be proven as a natural solution to many ailments and diseases, it should be explored to the fullest.

From what I have been told these "natural medicines" could significantly reduce health care costs while reducing the urgency for a national pharmaceutical program.

For the record, I am not a cannabis user. I have an open mind. I am not promoting either way. However, I wanted to express my thoughts of what 56 years hanging around this profession has provided and realizing government has a good record of setting policy, but a poor record to implement and manage.

Maurice

News from our Federal Capital

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through the National Trade Corridors Fund to the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to study the impact of climate change on the rail and highway located on the isthmus. The provinces are carrying out the study on how to best protect this critically important trade corridor from the rising sea levels.

The goal of the study is to examine ways to ensure this vital transportation system can withstand the effects of climate change and make sure it is able to support new technologies and innovation to keep the sea out and keep the container and truck traffic flowing to the rest of North America.

In the coming months, I will be following the work of the

provinces as they work together to come up with a strategy to protect the trade corridor and look forward to learning about the technologies that will need to be employed to keep the traffic and rail line running in the face of rising sea levels.

Because the tides and currents are exaggerated in the Bay of Fundy, we are experiencing climate change and rising sea levels more than some other areas. Just in my riding alone there are farms threatened to be flooded, vulnerable railways and highways, historic sites falling into the sea and even cemeteries about to be over taken.

Bill Casey is MP for Cumberland-Colchester.

News from our Provincial Capital

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ation Association, 21 kilowatts also received approval.

All applications were overseen by Clean Foundation, the independent procurement administrator.

Karen Casey is MLA Colchester North and Deputy Premier Province of Nova Scotia

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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potential for gold mining in Warwick Mountain between Tatamagouche and Wentworth Valley.

The Warwick Mountain area is the headwaters of the French River. The French River is where the Tatamagouche water utility draws its water. The Municipality has identified and clearly mapped this water shed area and we have unanimously voted to ensure we protect this watershed.

I should note potential gold mining is in the very early stages and at this point there have been no prospecting licences approved. I am told there should be commercial quantities and development would be at least ten years away. Regardless, those opposed to gold mining have been carrying out a very aggressive public information campaign. Most of this information causes alarm. They point to a broken dam at a Polly Mountain Gold mine in B C that was an environmental disaster. They paint a very dismal picture of this resource development.

With this in mind I as well as councillors Lloyd Gibbs, Eric Boutilier and Deputy Mayor Masters toured the Atlantic Gould facility in Moose River last Tuesday. I can say any concerns I had were alleviated. We need to understand there are many different processes for extracting gold. I am pretty comfortable with this process.

I spent the first 10 years of my work career working around rock quarries, rock crushers and road construction so have a little knowledge in the excavation part of this operation. I believe the biggest concern is in the settling ponds and the wastewater within which will be contaminated with chemicals used in some processes in extracting gold.

I will begin with the settling pond and the dam containing it. In this process the pond is filled with gray dust which will settle and pack to the extent it most likely would not move if the dam was removed. The water is removed and treated very quickly, thus eliminating any type of flowable slurry in the pond. How well is it being treated? This question, I can only answer with what they told me, as I clearly have no experience in this. However I did view the water treatment system and have a slight understanding of filtering. Regardless it all comes down to testing and oversight. Arsenic is always an issue in gold mining. This company advises they can provide proof the water they treat and return to a lake in the area, tests well below acceptable levels and has a lower arsenic content than the water they remove for use in their process.

This is a long way from saying there are no risks associated with mining. I do not pretend to be smart enough or educated enough to understand this completely. There are others who are educated, trained and responsible for the oversight. What I do want to say is we cannot just dismiss this or any other type of resource development based on information provided by those opposed. We must make informed decisions.

One thing which cannot be denied is this project in Moose River has created hundreds of jobs in rural Nova Scotia and spends hundreds of millions annually in the Nova Scotia economy.

As was reported last month Mark Austin, Economic Development officer Councillor Eric Boutilier and I travelled to Jordan to take part in an FCM Global Affairs Canada mission. Mark was included more for his experience in previous other world development projects. As a board member at FCM I volunteered for this project because of my involvement and experience in Municipal Solid waste at the provincial level. Darlyne Proctor, Colchester's Manager Waste Reduction is currently in Jordan. This project is about much more than Municipal Solid waste. As I understand it in 2017 the Government of Jordan, on behalf of the King, asked the Canadian Government for assistance and support for the small rural Municipalities in Southern Jordan.

The three identified priorities included: Structure and capacity building for Municipal Governments; provide expertise in developing better Solid Waste Management and to work supporting women and youth. The mandate or objective of the initial mission was to develop a rapport and to build a foundation for a long term relationship with both the Municipalities and with Jordanian Ministry of Municipal Affairs. To ensure the Canadian Municipal representatives gain a better understanding of the Jordanian Municipal context and to begin to develop the process or next steps in building capacity and structure. I hope to give further details and provide a better understanding of the current state of Municipal Governance at a later date.

As I stated earlier Darlyne Proctor is currently part of a mission which is beginning the process of developing a waste audit system that fits the situation on the ground. For me personally, this has been a true life experience. The impression or the view we get from half a world away, as presented by the world media, is nothing like what I experienced on the ground. The people, whether it be representatives of the Ministry or the Municipal elected or people on the street, they are absolutely wonderful. You could not meet finer people. The country side is part, kind of desolate, dessert and mountains with virtually no greenery or growth except olive trees, and part stunning.

It is something you really have to see or experience. The project itself is actually, for me very exciting. It would be a truly rewarding to play some small part in developing or improving structured democratically elected Municipal Government in Jordan with the support and cooperation of their Ministry.

In closing, November 11 is just around the corner. Please take the time to honor and show our appreciation to and support for the veterans that we owe so much.

Tom

Tom Taggart is Colchester Councillor for District 10.

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