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PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0

Publications Mail™
#40048924 - VOL. 23 NO. 11

NOVEMBER 2019

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS November 2019

STRESS RELIEF: When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. That's TRUST.

Bells of Peace will be tolled in Great Village on November 11, 2019 at 5:00p.m. by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 72. The bells will be rung by Comrade Arthur Chisholm, 95 years old. He will be assisted by James Johnson. This tolling of the bells will be Canada-wide and will ring in every province and territory at precisely 5:00 pm local times.

The Annual Christmas Dinner for Wheels to Meals program in Great Village will be held Monday, December 2nd at the Great Village Legion at 12 noon. Catering, cooking and serving will be provided by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Great Village Volunteer Fire Brigade with all food expenses for the event sponsored by the Shoreline Journal. Admission, \$10.00 with all proceeds going to the brigade auxiliary. Additional donations accepted for the Legion building fund.

Amendments introduced on October 10th will provide flexibility and more options to Nova Scotians to participate in municipal elections. The proposed changes include: vote in advance polls at a central polling place outside of their electoral district; extending polling hours if voting is disrupted on election day by an emergency; increasing maximum number of electors from 700 to 1000 for each polling station; provide clarity that members of boards, commissions or committees will not have to take a leave to run in a municipal election and increase the number of days, from 5 to 7, so returning officers have more time to receive nominations

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Hurricane Dorian knocked down many trees causing electricity outages to up to 300,000 NS Power customers. There were many instances of trees dangerously leaning across roads. Glenda Morrissey, MA, ICADC, Truro took this picture and with many people trying to report outages was unable to report the danger. (Glenda Morrissey Photo)

Firefighters to be Covered by WCB

Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Labi Kousoulis, has proposed amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act that will ensure all volunteer firefighters have access to WCB workplace injury insurance. This coverage includes access to the cancer presumption.

There are more than 6,000 volunteer firefighters in Nova Scotia. About half do not have

WCB coverage, though some have private workplace insurance. The starting cost of WCB coverage is estimated at \$48 per volunteer year. A fire department with 120 volunteers would pay \$5,760 per year.

Firefighters help keep Nova Scotians safe every day, putting their own health and safety at risk. That is why government is ensuring all volunteer firefighters have access to Workers'

Compensation Board (WCB) injury insurance coverage.

"Right now, firefighters across the province have different levels of coverage depending on where they live," said Mr. Kousoulis. "They put their lives on the line for us. In turn, these changes will ensure they are supported and have access to coverage when they need it."

The changes will also ex-

pand the definition of firefighter to include federal firefighters, giving them access to cancer presumptions and create authority to limit and extend presumption through regulation. Government will be consulting this fall and winter regarding expanding the list of cancers.

There are about 700 paid firefighters in Nova Scotia.

Never a Sick Day, Still Working at 88



Downey Thompson, 88 year old, ELCO's most senior employee of Elmsdale Lumber is congratulated by Forestry Minister, Ian Rankin, for perfect attendance and never missing a day's work, due to illness, in 73 years at the company. (Rees Photo)

By **Maurice Rees**

Downey Thompson, now 88, holds an employment record not many people will be able to surpass. Still active at Elmsdale Lumber, Elmsdale, Thompson is still active and proudly wears the title, "most senior employee". He has never missed a day's work, due to illness in 73 years. In 2012 he was inducted into the Nova Scotia Forestry of Hall of Fame.

In 2017, Downey Thompson celebrated 70 years of continuous employment at ELCO and two years later he is still active using his experiences to help mentor other younger professionals. At the age of 15, Downey Thompson

accepted a job with Elmsdale Lumber Company. JB Wilber, company founder, quickly realized Downey was a hard worker and a quick learner. Downey was soon promoted to Woodlands Manager and is responsible for the acquisition of the vast majority of ELCO's current timberland holdings. JB and Downey shared a mutual respect and lifelong friendship.

Following JB's death, Downey worked with Robin (JB's son) to ensure the continued good health of ELCO. He continues to offer that same mentorship to our next generation, Mark Wilber.

In 2004, Robin promoted Downey to Senior Woodlands

Advisor and at the same time appointed Downey's son Stephen Thompson (current General Manager) to Woodlands Manager of ELCO. Stephen shares the same passion for ELCO and the forest industry as his father and the Wilber family.

At a presentation to Colchester County council, Robin Wilber, stated the company founded in 1917 has never laid off an employee. The statement requires a bit of clarification. The company did lay off some employees following completion of a modernization program. The ELCO management team are very committed to offering full-time, year-round employment. They are very dedicated to finding work for employees when normal production is "taking a break" because of mechanical issues or economic issues. During a recent economic meltdown it is believed ELCO was the only sawmill in Nova Scotia that offered continuous employment.

ELCO is proud of its record of continuous employment. In the past 20 years, ELCO has experienced only two short layoffs.

Both were for scheduled interruptions in production due to modernization projects. Management works tirelessly to ensure they offer full-time, year-round employment. Dedication to employees has paid off with employee loyalty and dedication.

At the end of 2016, 35 of ELCO's 50 employees had tenures of more than 20 years many of them started at ELCO when they were in their early teens and have been with ELCO ever since.

Forestry in Nova Scotia is saluted in this Shoreline Journal.

See stories and photos on pages 14, 18 and 19.

Zann Wins for Liberals

By **Maurice Rees**

Lenore Zann succeeded in holding Cumberland-Colchester for the Liberals capturing 36.0% of the total vote of 45,450 and replacing long time MP, Bill Casey who served the area for 30 years. Valid ballots counted was down slightly from 46,392 to 45,450 from the 2015 federal election.

Zann garnered a vote count of 16,672 (36.8%) to 16,219 (35.7%) for Conservative candidate, Scott Armstrong, who had mounted a come-back after losing his seat to Bill Casey in 2015 when the Liberals won all 32 seats in Atlantic Canada.

There were a total of eight candidates on the ballot for the October 21, 2019 vote in addition to Zann and Armstrong for the mainline parties. Jason Blanch, Green Party received 6,015 votes (13.2%) compared to 1,650 in the 2015 election. Larry Duchesne waving the NDP flag received 5,451 votes (12%) compared to 2,647 for Wendy Robinson, NDP candidate in 2015.

Other candidates included: William Archer, People Party Canada, 608 (1.3%); Matthew Rushton, Independent, 232; Jody O'Blenis, 144 and Stephen Garvey, NCA, 109.

In 2015 Liberal sweep Bill Casey received 29,527 votes (63.7%) to Scott Armstrong, Conservative, 12,257 (26.5%). Wendy Robinson representing NDP was a distant third with 2,647 and Jason Blanch, Green Party at 1,650. Other 2015 candidates included Kenneth Jackson, IND, 181 and Richard Plett, IND, in last place with 70 votes.

According to Statistics Canada, Cumberland-Colchester lags behind other area in ranking for household median income of \$53.2K; compared to Nova Scotia's, \$60.8K and Canada wide \$70.3K.

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