

# The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

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## Natural Resources and Economic Development

The Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development is now available at <https://nsls.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/natural-resources-and-economic-development/reports>

## Amendments to the Denturists Act

Changes to the Denturists Act will allow denturists to place removable dentures over implants while working as part of an implant team. This is something denturists are trained to do, but currently only dentists are able to provide this service in Nova Scotia. This skill is part of the curriculum at all three accredited schools of denturism in Canada. A denturist is a specialized dental-care professional who is trained and works exclusively with dentures and denture patients; there are 38 denturists registered to practice in Nova Scotia. Additional Resources: <http://www.nsdenturistboard.ca/>

## A New Era of Rural Broadband

Pictou County is moving forward on a project which will bring fast and affordable high-speed internet to the community. In partnership with Nova Communications, a division of ROCK Networks, and a consortium of best-in-class partners, Nokia, Plexus, WesTower, i-Valley, and NCS, the Municipality of Pictou County is positioned to provide internet connectivity where none has existed before. This Open Access Network model succeeds where traditional telecom models fail. It is a self-funded revenue generating approach for rural communities that will usher in a new era of economic and social growth while attracting and keeping jobs in the community. It will also be opening up areas of innovation with Smart City and IoT capabilities. The High-Speed Internet Project has been the top priority of Council for the last three years and is a major milestone for all residents and businesses in rural Pictou County. It will be one of the first municipal units to construct, own and control its own high-speed Internet system. This will allow individuals and businesses to live and operate almost anywhere in Pictou County's rural landscape with all the communications advantages of larger urban centres. The Municipality of Pictou County has committed \$25 million to building the network ensuring residents and businesses in rural areas have access to the best high-speed Internet available. Nova Communications, a division of ROCK Networks, has over 35 years of experience and is the largest communications systems integrator in Eastern Canada. Nova Communications is ISO 9001:2015 certified and designs, integrates and implements wireless and broadband solutions with a focus on two-way radio, rural broadband, IoT, Next Gen 911, and 5G. For information: Sueann Musick, Municipality of Pictou County, [sueann.musick@municipict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@municipict.ca) or Nadine Mansour, ROCK Networks and Nova Communications a Division of ROCK Networks, Director of Marketing and Sales Operations, [nadine.mansour@novacomcommunications.com](mailto:nadine.mansour@novacomcommunications.com)

## Population Reaches All-time High

Nova Scotia's population grew by 11,895 residents, or 1.24 per cent, reaching a high of 971,395 as of July 1, 2019. Nova Scotia's population is at a new all-time high thanks to the number of immigrants and people from other provinces who are choosing to make their homes here. Over the last year, 6,393 immigrants settled in Nova Scotia. At the same time, the net migration to Nova Scotia from other provinces grew to 3,306. The net number of non-permanent residents, such as international students, also increased by 4,121. Information: <https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/news.asp?id=15179>

## Protected areas around the province

Protected areas protect biodiversity and habitat and offer opportunities for recreation, education, research and tourism. That's why government is designating 17 new and expanded protected areas around the province. Environment Minister Gordon Wilson announced the new sites today, Sept. 30. Other partners include the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nova Scotia Power and Georgia Pacific Canada.

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Hal Fowler, founder of Fowler Construction receives the Small Business Achievement Award from Malcolm MacDonald, representing award sponsor, PricewaterhouseCooper. (Submitted)

## Fowler Construction wins Achievement Award

*This award is given to a local entrepreneur who has been in business for more than 10 years, who is continually modifying to adapt to changing technologies.*

Since 1982, Fowler Construction Services Ltd. has been serving customers in Truro and Colchester. There are currently 11 employees working at their Bible Hill location, where along with general contracting services, they are doing major new construction and renovations projects in the community.

While their main business is general contracting, they also offer design building services outsourced to local engineering and design professionals to implement full turn-key projects.

For more than three decades Fowler Construction services Ltd. has completed projects from common to unusual, that truly stand out including theaters, restaurants, vehicle dealerships and even a recreation dome. Driving around the Truro and Colchester region you will see

many of their notable new construction and renovation projects such as Walker Lofts new project 880 Prince Street, The Common Works at the corner of Queen and Commercial, the BlueLine New Holland Dealership in Lower Onslow and Boston Pizza on Robie Street. The contracting company also recently lead the renovation of the spectacular new U-Haul location on the corner of Prince and Court street and the new premise of the Canadian Mental Health Association on Prince Street. The business also partnered with little Moes K9 Academy in its relocation, now operating on Brookside Road in Valley

The experienced, energetic team at Fowler Construction has been able to distinguish itself in the competitive construction industry by the added value it brings to every stage of the build. They consistently use local suppliers and industry partners to complete their projects further contributing to the local economy.



Mark Wood Ocean Sonics founder is presented the Exporter of the Year award by David Copus, NSBI the award sponsor. (Rees Photo)

## Ocean Sonics chosen Exporter of the Year

*The Exporter of the Year award recognizes a Truro or Colchester County business that has demonstrated excellence in exporting outside Nova Scotia, and has achieved noticeable growth as a result of entering expanded markets, while creating employment, and contributing to the local economy.*

Ocean Sonics is reaching customers around the globe designing and building innovative products to improve the quality and success of underwater sound measurements.

Exceptional service and a focus on new technologies and infrastructure, to better meet the ever-changing needs of customers, has helped the company grow since launching its products seven years ago

Earlier this year, the business moved from its roots in Great Village and opened a new location in Truro Heights, expanding its compliment of staff from 25 to 30. The company plans to

scale up its production by about 10 times the current level, from producing 100-200 products per year, to 1,000 annually. This will be possible through continuous innovation which is what Ocean Sonics is known for.

Like their devices, they listen. This enables them to develop products that meet the growing needs of customers to monitor our oceans. They are also hiring more skilled engineers, technicians, sales, customer service, and logistic people to allow this scaling to happen.

With their growth in exports they are looking at establishing satellite offices in other parts of the world and/or partnering with universities and institutes in Canada and abroad to assist in the development of the new technologies.

One key piece that makes the business stand out from others is Ocean Sonics does business with Purpose that puts people and planet before profit.

## AEL Millwright Services wins Agri Foods Award



Joanne McRae, on behalf of award sponsor MNP LLP presents Greg Sullivan of AEL Millwright Services (A division of Agricultural Enterprises Limited) with the Agriculture / Agri foods Award. (Submitted)

*This award recognizes an individual, group, an organization or business where the principles of running a successful agricultural or related operation are applied and result in a thriving and environmentally friendly endeavor. The enterprise must derive more than 50 per cent of its annual revenue*

*from agricultural related activities.*

AEL Millwright Services, a division of Agricultural Enterprises Limited, has 40 years of experience in process equipment and bulk material storage and handling. The business designs, supplies and installs various systems for feed mills, grain elevators,

sewage treatment plants, wood pellet mills and aggregate facilities along with offering millwright services for installation, repair and maintenance work.

They work in the Maritimes with customers who range from a single-family farm to national and international companies. AEL has been involved in major expansions with companies such as Northeast Nutrition, PEI Grain Elevator Corporation, Cavendish Farms, McCain Foods and Moosehead Breweries

In 2015, the company was purchased from the original owner, and the new owners are focused on servicing the agricultural industry while growing the business by expanding into new markets and offering more services. In the last three years, they re-located the business from Onslow to the Truro Industrial Park. This has allowed them to more than double the size of the work shop and increased capacity to serve their customers.

They are diversifying their

customer base and industry sectors served. They rebranded from Agricultural Enterprises Limited to AEL Millwright Services and have also established a Sales and Rentals Division.

Two major projects completed in the last three years have led to a sizable growth in revenue and they were recently awarded their largest single contract to date, that is involved in providing increased storage capacity to the farming industry in PEI.

AEL has been fortunate to be involved in all three of the major expansions of Feed Mills here in the Truro area in the last couple of years. These Feed Mills are a direct link to the agricultural industry and touch many people involved in this industry. They are pleased their company is capable of offering services to help the agriculture industry not only survive, but grow and be successful in today's global world.

# Growing your business beyond Nova Scotia? David can help.

**David Copus**

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“Whether you are new to exporting or looking to grow your export business, NSBI can help.”