

**The Shoreline Tid-Bits**  
Journal

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**Second round of Internet projects announced**

On September 1, Develop Nova Scotia announces the second round of Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative projects, which will provide access to an additional 32,000 homes and businesses. This agreement with pre-qualified Internet service provider Bell Canada will provide more than 100 communities across the province with high-speed internet, at speeds higher than CRTC targets.

With preparatory and engineering work already underway on the new projects, it is expected that more than 11,000 homes and businesses will have access by summer 2021; 21,000 by end of 2021; and all 32,000 by summer 2022.

The Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust is investing \$59 million in these projects, with leveraged funds of \$61 million from the public and private sector.

## MHL Approves 40 Game Season

Truro, N.S. (October 22, 2020)

The Maritime Junior Hockey League's Board of Governors have approved a modified 40-game schedule for the 2020-21 regular season during a meeting Wednesday night.

"Thank you to the Board of Governors, MHL Executive, Return to Play Committee, and team staff for their work in getting us to a point where we can bring hockey back to all twelve of our markets", says MHL President Steve Dykeman. "It has taken considerable efforts with stakeholders throughout the Maritimes. Many of these conversations will continue as we navigate our way through the 2020-21 regular season. As we've stressed from the start, safety for fans, team staff, and players is paramount. We're confident that the measures put in place in each of the rinks our teams play in will meet that mandate, and are excited to welcome back our fans."

The season start date is Friday, October 30th and ends on March 28th, 2021. All games will be available to view on HockeyTV. As previously announced, the league will kick off the 2020-21 season with Honda MHL Thank You Week. Specially designed "Thank You" jerseys will be worn during each team's home opener in tribute to the workers on the front-line of the COVID-19 pandemic. MHL teams will auction off the jerseys on their Facebook page throughout Honda MHL Thank You Week. More information will be released in the coming days, leading up to opening night.

The Board of Governors voted in favour of "mini-divisions" to enhance regional rivalries for the 2020-21 season. In the Eastlink North, the two mini-divisions will consist of:

**Mini-Division #1**

Edmundston Blizzard, Grand Falls Rapids, and Fredericton Red Wings

**Mini-Division #2**

Campbellton Tigers, Miramichi Timberwolves, and Summerside Western Capitals

The Eastlink South will be divided into:

**Mini-Division #1**

Amherst Ramblers, Pictou County Weeks Crushers, and Truro Bearcats

**Mini-Division #2**

South Shore Lumberjacks, Valley Wildcats, and Yarmouth Mariners

**The regular season's 40 games will be laid out as follows:**

- 8 games (4 at home and 4 on the road) against each team in a mini-division - 16 games total
- 4 games (2 at home and 2 on the road) against each of the other three teams in the same division (Eastlink North mini-division #1 vs #2, Eastlink South mini-division #1 vs #2) - 12 games total
- 2 games (1 at home and 1 on the road) against each team in the opposite division (Eastlink North vs Eastlink South) - 12 games total

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and current situation in New Brunswick, cross-divisional games, those between the Eastlink North and Eastlink South teams, will not begin until the last week of January. The exception to this is the Summerside Western Capitals, who will begin the season playing their twelve games, six home and six away, against the Eastlink South.

For the 2020-21 season, every team will qualify for the Canadian Tire Cup Playoffs. The playoff format will be announced at a later date. The complete regular season schedule will be released on Monday, October 26th.

Media Contact: James Faulkner, Director of Communications  
Maritime Hockey League  
jfaulkner@themhl.ca

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## BEARCAT BANTER Expect Excitement

October 18

The week of October 19th was a big week for MHL Hockey.

A revised schedule of 40 games is now being proposed with League Governors expected to decide upon it this week.

It makes a lot of sense. All play is within the respective Divisions until late January when inter-divisional play may begin, if everything goes to plan.

A positive schedule deci-

sion will enable all teams to clearly articulate all information on sale of season and game tickets. It will also be the opportunity for the RECC to clearly state the protocols in effect for Bearcat games at the facility. Much will be provincially regulated and must be adhered to by all, to keep the sticks on the ice and fans in the seats.

Follow the Bearcat Website and Twitter to keep abreast of any announcements.

Last week, the Banter took

## The MHL Waiting Game

Things were looking good, with all teams high on preparation, and their respective venues looking for the green light to open up to meet the hungry hockey fraternity.

Things can change, though. Late last week the QMJHL had to shut down several Quebec franchises. That was a concern.

The spike in Covid cases in New Brunswick caused Hockey Nova Scotia to prevent teams travelling for games to that province. That was a concern, and led to MHL cancellations.

Decisions by Public Health are pending for sure, it's a tough call. The Bearcats had to focus on what they could control - getting ready for a pair of exhibition games.

Friday, October 16, they were off to Valley to face the Wildcats. Truro and Valley each went 1 for 4 on the powerplay while Truro won the scoreboard race 6-3. Saturday, October 17, they were at the RECC to face the visiting Pictou County Crushers. Without fans in attendance, Pictou won out in the overtime 5-4. Tuesday, October 20 at the RECC, Valley scored two third period goals to defeat Truro 5-2. Thursday, October 22, Truro visited Pictou to pick up a 4-2 victory. Truro's Alec MacDonald went 2 for 31 for the win.

## Recognizing Older Nova Scotians

Older Nova Scotians are leaders in the province. They are business owners and entrepreneurs, volunteers, mentors, caregivers and have a wealth of knowledge and expertise to share with other generations.

SHIFT - Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population is changing the narrative about older adults. Under this plan, government is investing in age-friendly communities, expanding community transit, supporting older workers and their employers, encouraging entrepreneurship and increasing funding for home repairs and accommodations. The guiding principles of SHIFT are to value the social and economic contributions of older adults, promote healthy, active living and support seniors staying in their homes so

they can stay connected to their communities as long as they can.

This spring, Senior Safety Programs received emergency funding totalling \$360,000, and Community Links received \$110,000 to help them respond to increased needs due to COVID-19. Last year, an investment of \$390,000 supported 30 projects through the Age-Friendly Communities Grant program, which supports projects that help overcome social isolation of older adults and help them stay active, healthy and engaged in their communities.

**Additional Resources: Age Friendly Community Grants:**  
<https://novascotia.ca/age-friendly-grant/>  
**Updates on SHIFT:**  
<https://novascotia.ca/shift/>

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a look at the goaltending and defensive corps in place to start the season. Offensively, four returnees are on the roster. Included in that group are Caleb Hart (20) and Cole Julian (19), a pair of third year Bearcats known for the full 200 foot game.

Eighteen year-olds Ben Fraser and Lucas Parsons are prepping for their sophomore season, looking for increased responsibility.

Bryan Laureigh (20), a New Jersey native, is still unable to come north due to border restrictions. His arrival would be a big plus. Gavin Hart (19) spent last year with the Mooseheads following a productive two years in Truro. He will be a go-to guy.

Team newcomers with major junior and/or junior experience make the Bearcats a competitive team from the get-go. Included are Holden Kodak (Cloverdale, BC), Tristen Therrien (Prevost, QC), Carson Gallant (Sackville, NS), Ben Sheffar (Lower Sackville) and Brandon Cianflone (Lorraine, QC). All are 19 year-olds.

Rookies looking to earn their junior stripes are Sam Archibald (17, Debert) and Trey Sturge (17, Sydney). They've fit in quickly.

This is a young Bearcat team with a good mix of skill, size and experience, and deep enthusiasm.

*Prepared by Gerry Hale, Truro Junior A Bearcats*

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