

A Gift to Uplift Spirits

In mid-October, the Municipality of Colchester received a special gift of handcrafted Nova Scotia themed buoys this week to pass on to families of the victims and to survivors of the April 18 and 19 tragedy to help uplift their spirits.

The gift was received from retired Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant Craig McCormick who first started making and selling the buoys from his home near Kemptonville, Ontario to raise funds in support of the victims' families.

"When I first learned about the tragedy in Nova Scotia, I knew I wanted to do something to help and to let those affected know that they were not alone," said McCormick.

Hundreds of buoys have been sold across Canada, and in the United States through McCormick's Uplifting Spirits Facebook page with all proceeds going to the local Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society established to assist the affected families and communities.

"The location of each buoy sold is pinned on the Facebook page map. It is wonderful to see such widespread love and support from all over," said McCormick. Four



hundred buoys have been sold to date and sales are anticipated to reach over five hundred before the end of the year.

"I've been making the buoys in an open-air workshop, but with the weather starting to change I expect production will be stifled for a bit. Though I hope to keep making them as long as people continue to ask for them," said McCormick.

Colchester County Mayor, Christine Blair noted that the Municipality has experienced many generous acts of kindness in recent months. "From donations and thoughtful gifts, to encouraging letters, it is reassuring to know that we are in the hearts and minds of so many all across Canada," said Blair. "We thank Mr. McCormick and all who have made such heart-warming gestures to help our community through these difficult times."

For information on how to order an Uplifting Spirits buoy visit: <https://www.facebook.com/upliftingspiritsnovascotia>



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Crown Attorney Elected to National Board for Mental Health

Aileen McGinty, Crown attorney with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service, was recently elected vice chair of the Canadian Mental Health Association's national board of directors. Ms. McGinty is currently the designated Crown attorney with the Dartmouth wellness court.

Ms. McGinty has volunteered with the association for more than eight years. She previously served on the association's Nova Scotia board of directors, and as a director of the national board.

She was elected to her current position by members of the national board during the annual general meeting last month. She will work with the board to promote the importance of mental health to Canadians.

Ms. McGinty is also a part-time instructor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, department of criminology, and a board member of the Nova Scotia Criminal Justice Society.

August Non-Resident Visitation

Reflective of the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, non-resident visitation to Nova Scotia was down 74% in August 2020. According to statistics gathered by Tourism Nova Scotia, there were 106,000 non-resident visitors to Nova Scotia in August, with 11,000 visitors arriving by air (down 92%), and 95,000 visitors arriving by road (down 67%).

As a result of the pandemic, Atlantic Canadians made up a higher share of visitors to Nova Scotia in August 2020 than the same period in previous years. Atlantic Canadians typically account for about one-third of overall August visitation (with 35% of visitors being Atlantic residents in August 2019). This year, 80,700 or

76% of August visitors were Atlantic Canadians traveling within the Atlantic bubble. In addition, 22% of August visitors were from other regions of Canada, and fewer than 2% were international visitors. All visitors from outside of Atlantic Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arriving in Nova Scotia.

Accommodations operators from across the province report 810,000 room nights sold year to date August 2020, a decrease of 56% compared with the same period in 2019.

Fixed-roof accommodation data continues to reveal the dramatic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Nova Scotia's tourism industry, with a decline of 58% in room

nights sold in August (a loss of 230,000 room nights sold) compared with August 2019. At the same time, declines in room nights sold moderated in August compared to June and

July, suggesting a somewhat improving trend, and increasing confidence in travel by Nova Scotians and Atlantic Canadians as the summer progressed.

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