

Heating Assistance Rebate Program Opens

Applications are now open for the 2020-21 heating season. The program provides a rebate of up to \$200 to low-income Nova Scotians who pay for their own heat. Home heating costs can be difficult for low-income Nova Scotians to afford, which is why the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) is once again available.

HARP helps many Nova Scotians heat their homes each year," said Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on behalf of Patricia Arab, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services. "It's fast and easy to apply online and paper applications are available at many locations across the province, including our Access Centres."

To qualify for the program, the income threshold is \$29,000 for one-person households and \$44,000 for households with more than one person.

Applications are also available through Access Nova Scotia, Community Services offices and MLA offices. The program closes March 31, 2021.

To apply for HARP online visit: <http://www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp>

Property Tax Rebate Program for Low Income Seniors: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-property-tax-rebate-property-tax-rebate-seniors>

For more information on other Nova Scotia home energy programs, visit <https://energyassist.ca/>



Drug and Weapons Charges Laid

An investigation into drug trafficking by police in Colchester County has led to a Valley man being charged with drug and weapons offences. On October 16, the Colchester District Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SCEU) and General Investigation Section (GIS), assisted by the Bible Hill Detachment and the Cumberland SCEU arrested two men and two women during a vehicle stop. Subsequent to these arrests a search warrant was executed at a home on Sandy Place, in Valley, where two additional women were arrested.

During the search of the vehicle and the home, police seized firearms, weapons, explosives (fire bottles) and drugs.

Timothy Charles Gower Bond, 33, of Valley is charged with the following: Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking; Possession of Firearm When Knowing Possession is Unau-

thorized; Possession of Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose x2; Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm x4; Fail to Comply with Undertaking and Unlawful Possession of Explosive

Bond was remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear in Truro Provincial Court on October 28. The other five people were released and the investigation is ongoing.

In another incident, Colchester RCMP has charged two men with drug related offences following a traffic stop and drug seizure. The traffic stop was part of a two month investigation into drug trafficking in Colchester County. On October 9, RCMP conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle on Juniper Street in Truro. The driver and passenger, both men, were taken into custody. As a result of the traffic stop, officers seized a quantity of

cocaine.

Phillip Michael Werkman 28-years-old of Brookfield is charged with Trafficking Cocaine, Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking and Failure to Comply with Release Order Conditions. Ali Naser 44-years-old of Truro is facing charges of Trafficking Cocaine and Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking. Both were released from custody the same day and are scheduled to appear in Truro Provincial Court on November 18, at 9:30 a.m. The investigation is ongoing.

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