



Liza Madore who works downtown Truro has a passion of love for clouds and sunsets. One of her favourite spots is the Fundy Discovery Centre at the Tidal Bore off Robie. She noted the clouds were spectacular and looked like simple paint brush strokes. (Lisa Madore Photo)

Cottage Safety and Winter Preparation

The vivid fall colours are nature's reminder that cottage season is coming to an end for another year. Many cottage owners will soon begin closing up their seasonal homes in preparation for winter.

Every year, the RCMP responds to numerous reports of break and enters at cottages and cabins through the winter months. Break and enters at seasonal properties are often crimes of opportunity due to their isolated locations. This increases the odds of criminal activity not being noticed.

The Nova Scotia RCMP is offering some tips to keep your cottage safe: Remove all valuables from your cottage (including firearms); Lock / secure all doors and windows; Ensure all windows are covered by closing curtains or blinds; Ensure all out buildings (e.g., garage or shed) are secured. Remove valuables.

In addition: Don't leave tools and items outside that could be used to break into your cottage. This includes ladders; Ensure that your cottage is visited on a regular basis. Consider using a trail camera; Ensure your property is well lit, with motion sensors and timers on lights; and Install an alarm system with a local contact person if you don't live nearby.

"The more difficult you make it for thieves to access to your property, the better," says Cpl.

Chris Marshall of the Nova Scotia RCMP.

The RCMP will often check with neighbours if a break-in occurs in an area. We encourage community members to call to report suspicious activity and help to reduce property crime. Taking note of details such as a vehicle description, a license plate number, or a description of a driver can be a big help and lead to the recovery of stolen property and charges against those responsible.

Nova Scotia RCMP can be contacted anywhere in the province by calling 1-800-803-RCMP (7267). Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or use the P3 Tips App.



Government Changes COVID-19 Support Programs

In an email to members Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce circulated the following message. The federal government is proposing the following changes to business support programs:

Extend the **Canada Recovery Hiring Program** until May 7, 2022, for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10 percent and increase the subsidy rate to 50 percent. The extension would help businesses continue to hire back workers and create the additional jobs Canada needs for a full recovery.

Deliver targeted support to businesses that are still facing significant pandemic-related

challenges. Support would be available through two streams: **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program**, which would provide support through the wage and rent subsidy programs, to hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, and restaurants, with a subsidy rate of up to 75 percent.

Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program, which would provide support through the wage and rent subsidy programs, would support other businesses that have faced deep losses, with a subsidy rate of up to 50 percent.

Applicants for these programs will use a new "two-key" eligibility system

whereby they will need to demonstrate significant revenue losses over the course of 12 months of the pandemic, as well as revenue losses in the current month.

Businesses that face temporary new local lockdowns will be eligible for up to the maximum amount of the wage and rent subsidy programs, during the local lockdown, regardless of losses over the course of the pandemic.

These programs will be available until May 7, 2022, with the proposed subsidy rates available through to March 13, 2022. From March 13, 2022, to May 7, 2022, the subsidy rates will decrease by half.

Virtual Voting Policy Changes Adopted on Trial Basis

Following brief discussion at the September Council meeting regarding voting procedures for virtual meetings, the Municipal Solicitor advised that a policy would be required to change voting procedures. The draft Voting Procedure for Virtual Meetings Policy would allow for the Chair to ask for members of Council opposed to a motion to signify by raising their hand electronically with the Chair confirming each negative vote verbally. Those not indicating opposition by a show of hands would be deemed to have voted in favour of the motion.

Concern was expressed with changing the process and the process for voting at vir-

tual meetings should remain status quo, with each member verbally indicating whether they are in favour or opposed to the motion on the floor.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by

Councillor Benoit Council Committee recommends to Council that the Voting Procedure for Virtual Meetings Policy be adopted on a trial basis. Motion Carried (Councillor Cooper opposed).

Alton Gas to be Decommissioned

AltaGas has decided not to continue with the development of Alton and to move forward with decommissioning the project.

In the coming weeks and months, they will be discussing the next steps related to decommissioning the project with regulators at the provincial and federal governments, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, and other key stakeholders.

Disposal of Hazardous Substances

Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, provided an overview of the briefing memo and attachments regarding the Disposal of Hazardous Substances, as circulated in the Council package for this evening's meeting. The review included background information leading to the creation of the Disposal of Hazardous Substances By-law and Policy; the application made by Colchester Containers for a permit to operate a site in Middle Stewiacke and Council's decision to refuse the application; outcome of legal action taken by Colchester Containers to strike down the By-law and Policy; amendments made to the Solid Waste By-law to address disposal of asbestos as a result of the court decision to strike down the By-law and Policy; and, the Municipality's successful appeal of the decision to strike down. The issue now is that there are two different documents, the Solid Waste By-law, and the Disposal of Hazardous Substances By-law, that are not consistent as it relates to asbestos disposal. Additionally, as of December 2019, the Municipal Government Act mandates a municipal planning strategy (MPS) for all lands in the municipality. It is possible that the regulations of the disposal of hazardous substances can be addressed

through the MPS and LUB.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Paton "the disposal of hazardous substances be referred to Solid

Waste and Planning staff, as well as the Municipal Solicitor, for further advice as to recommended policy direction."

Exciting Changes!

With the coming changes at the Truro Mall we will be relocating in two to three months time. Our new location between Marvis and Northern Reflections (Pets Unlimited) will facilitate additional products and services.

As we proceed we will continue to inform you of these changes.

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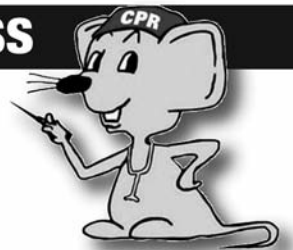
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