

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Input on New Child and Youth Commission

Nova Scotians are invited to share their thoughts and ideas on the creation of the Child and Youth Commission.

A steering committee will hold engagement sessions across the province over the next month to meet, listen and learn from children and youth, organizations that work with and advocate for children and youth, African Nova Scotian communities, Indigenous communities and the general public. People are also invited to respond to an online survey.

The engagement sessions start Tuesday, October 11, in Annapolis Royal. The full list of dates and locations and the public survey are at: <https://novascotia.ca/child-and-youth-commission-engagement/>

Helping Older Nova Scotians Stay Active

Community groups are encouraged to create new projects to help Nova Scotia seniors be active and involved in their communities. Funding for projects is available through the annual Age-Friendly Communities Grant program, which is now open for applications.

The program supports organizations like the Seniors Association of St. Margaret's Bay, which used its grant to create a drop-in program on Tuesdays. It offers a wide range of activities for seniors, from knitting, crocheting and rug hooking to board and card games, pickleball and walking laps indoors.

The grants also support provincewide initiatives like Dance Nova Scotia's Dance for Health, which promotes the role of dance in a healthy lifestyle and focuses on issues specific to people living with Parkinson's disease.

Applications are open until November 18 and will be reviewed and approved by the end of January. Groups eligible to apply include not-for-profit organizations and co-operatives, municipalities, First Nations communities and universities. Businesses and individuals are not eligible.

More information on the program, lists of past grant recipients and the application form are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/age-friendly-grant/>

RCMP charge man with arson

On October 1, 2022, at approximately 3:45 a.m., Colchester County District RCMP and fire were dispatched to a report of a residential fire on Wild Chance Dr. in Bible Hill. The fire department was able to extinguish the fire, however the residence was a total loss. RCMP officers noted what appeared to be a fresh trail in the grass and this led them to a residence on Andy's Ave. RCMP officers located a 43-year-old man at the residence and safely arrested him. As the investigation continued, RCMP officers learned that the man had been involved in two other arsons from November 2018 and December 2021, and he had also been involved in a separate break-in incident from December 2021.

Richard Nathan Fox, 43, of Bible Hill, has been charged with Arson (3 counts), Break and Enter (3 counts) and Theft. Fox was remanded into custody and will appear in Truro Provincial Court at 1:30 p.m. today.

Colchester County District RCMP is still investigating a number of other arsons that have occurred in the Bible Hill area over the past year. Anyone with information on these incidents is asked to contact Colchester County District RCMP at 902-893-6820. 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.

More Support for Power Restoration Work

On October 5th, John Lohr, Minister responsible for the Emergency Management Office requested additional support from the Canadian Armed Forces to perform road work, including flagging and signage, in areas where restoration crews need help.

To further enable this work, the Province has declared a state of emergency in the following areas: Antigonish County, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Colchester County, Cumberland County, Guysborough County, Inverness County, Pictou County, Richmond County and Victoria County. A state of emergency remains in effect for 14 days unless the government terminates or extends it.

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shared these stories during Question Period in the House of Commons.

I spoke in the Emergency Debate on Hurricane Fiona. I discussed the impacts to Atlantic industries such as forestry, farming, and fishing; the destruction of our infrastructure; the lack of cellular service in rural areas; and the overall economic consequences associated with restoring businesses.

I held an Open House Meet and Greet in Amherst later this month, where constituents asked questions about Hurricane Fiona federal funding (as well as immigration and the new Conservative Party leadership). I also had the opportunity to speak with my Amherst volunteers, who assisted me in my federal campaign. Again, thank you to all these volunteers for their support.

While the ramifications of Hurricane Fiona have been at the forefront of my work this month, I have also received an exciting

update.

On October 12th, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Pierre Poilievre, appointed me as the Shadow Minister for Health. It is a great honour to work in this new role, and I look forward to putting my 26 years of medical expertise to good use.

I will continue to do everything in my power to assist the great people of Cumberland-Colchester. I want to thank you all for your support throughout the past year. I also want to thank those who acted in supportive roles in the aftermath of the hurricane. Maritimers have one of the best reputations across Canada because in the face of great difficulty, we always manage to lead with kindness, strength, and good humor.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca.

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2683, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

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these folks enough! However, there were some failures and places where I believe we should have done better and I will gladly accept some of the blame.

In the days immediately following the storm, like many, I had no communications. I spent a lot of time driving around to try and understand the degree of damage. Mid week I took my generator to the office so we could receive calls and receive requests from residents. It was good to receive the calls, but often very frustrating we could very often do little to help. We had numbers to call for NSP, but I am sure they were just put in the que along with every other call that came in.

As we got in to the later part of the second week, the patience of the residents really began to get stretched. Many still without power, still running generators, hundreds and hundreds of trees on houses and properties needing to be cleared and far too many that still had very limited if any telecommunication services.

So here is where I began to get frustrated and believe we should have done better. The nightly news was telling people the Military was here to help us when in fact there were very few, less than 300 for all of Nova Scotia. It turns out those service men and women here were not permitted to do much because of "Liability concerns" imagine!!!!

We continued to ask the Dept National Defense for more, but to my knowledge, it has never arrived. There was lots of information on the nightly news about the Red Cross and the funding they received in support of Nova Scotians. So this leads me to where I really wanted to get to in this article.

When Government's distribute money for any reason, it must meet very strict guidelines and criteria. Any funding stream must meet the scrutiny of the Auditor General. Understandably there must be checks and balances. These are there to protect the public purse and to ensure you don't have politicians out there handing out money. There must be controls. These funding streams will be audited by the Auditor General and that report will be made public and debated.

However, in times of emergency such as this, long established public not for profits are often better position to help those in need and they have much more flexibility and experience within communities and providing for those in need than the government bureaucracy has.

In the case of Fiona, the Red Cross received a tremendous amount of money from Government, corporations and the general public. (I heard the McCain Foundation donated \$2-million). All of this was earmarked specifically for victims of Fiona. The United Way also received Government funding. Personally, I fully support this.

The challenge is and what I found very frustrating was that neither the Red Cross nor the United Way have very much reach in Colchester North. We are, with the exception of the urban core in around Valley, mostly a large geographic area of small communities. I received calls from those who were and still are desperately in need of financial support for a variety of day to day challenges caused by lost work, lost power, and damages, financial distress as a result of Fiona.

Then, I asked how our residents could access funding from Red Cross. I was advised the Red Cross had staff at comfort centers. I enquired as to what comfort centers in Colchester North had Red Cross Staff? I was advised Red Cross staff were at the Rath Eastlink Center in Truro. I am not aware of any actually in Colchester North.

I am not suggesting the Red Cross or United Way did not help residents in Colchester North, but I am suggesting it was not a convenient delivery of aid to residents. After speaking with MLA's from other constituencies affected by Fiona, it would seem they received better or more easily accessed support.

In my view we will continue to have severe storms in the future. Typically hurricanes are spawned in the Caribbean and travel along the American East Coast they lose strength as they encounter the cooler waters. There is a consensus one of the reasons this storm was so strong it moved down along the coast where the water was a couple of degrees warmer. Again I expect, in future, severe storms will be more common.

As we get this behind us and begin to examine what we can or must do better in the future is to plan and be prepared. Locally, for my part, I am going to attempt to build relationships with these organizations and find others in our rural communities who are interested in being involved. They should have some degree training in supporting or being a liaison with these organizations.

For anyone who has not applied for need any assistance in accessing or filling out forms, please call Andrea at our office 902-641-2335 or email tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

As I close off this article, I wish to extend a very sincere thank you to the Volunteer Fire Brigades throughout Colchester North for once again stepping up and supporting their communities. Where would we ever be without them!

A big "Thank You" to Municipal Councillors from Colchester North for their cooperation and their support for their residents. Also to the Municipality of Colchester, as a whole, for stepping forward and providing staff and funding to clean up trees and storm debris from roadsides and properties throughout Colchester. That was exceptional service!

Tom Taggart, MLA, Colchester North can be reached at 902-641-2335, tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

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ceiving upcoming newsletters, please reach out to Jill at the Constituency Office to be added to the list of subscribers. Our office is open from Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.

We can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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As always I look forward to hearing from you. Please reach out via email vlomond@colchester.ca, telephone (listed above) or set

up in a person meeting.

Victoria Lomond is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10 and can be reached vlomond@colchester.ca or 902-890-1493.

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