

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Improved Response Times for FOIPOP Requests

Response times for Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act requests improved in 2022-23, according to the annual report by Information Access and Privacy Services. While the volume of requests remained high, 80 per cent of requests were completed in 30 days or fewer, up from 76 per cent in last year's report.

Medic Monday Recognized Paramedics

On September 25, more than 1,200 paramedics across the province are being celebrated as Nova Scotia marked Medic Monday.

To support the lifesaving work of paramedics and to recruit and retain more of them, the Province has: provided a tuition rebate to paramedics who agree to work in Nova Scotia for at least three years following graduation; provided a retention bonus to recognize the hard-work of paramedics in Nova Scotia; added a new Emergency Health Services (EHS) LifeFlight airplane to transfer non-critical care patients from Yarmouth and Sydney to Halifax for tests and treatment and added a nurse to the 911 medical communications centre to manage non-life-threatening calls so paramedics can focus on emergencies.

Nova Scotia Celebrated Volunteers

Nova Scotians who generously volunteer their time to enrich their communities year after year were honoured on, September 25, at the 49th annual Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony in Halifax.

"This year, volunteers have been instrumental to the success of large-scale celebrations, including the 2023 North American Indigenous Games, and responded to extraordinary challenges due to severe weather events," said Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc. "The level of dedication and courage that I have witnessed will remain with me for years to come. I thank all volunteers for their service."

Sixty-seven volunteers were chosen to receive representative awards. Three specialty awards will also be presented at the ceremony in Halifax: the Youth Volunteer Award, the Family Volunteer Award and the Nova Scotia Strong Award. Details about the award recipients are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/nonprofitsector/documents/program-provincial-volunteer-awards.pdf> (See additional coverage, with bios, photos and introductory message on Pages 10 to 12)

Nominations for 2023 Human Rights Awards

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is inviting the public to submit nominations for the 2023 Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards until November 3.

Award categories are: Youth (up to age 20) - for work that promotes equity and inclusion, advances understanding of human rights and its importance in empowering youth to advocate for themselves, their peers and their communities; Individual (age 21 and older) - someone who demonstrates leadership and whose work has contributed to change in their community by advancing equity, inclusion, and the value in promoting and protecting human rights; Group/Organization - its collective action serves to protect dignity, advance equity, promote inclusion, and raise awareness of human rights in Nova Scotia; Dr. Burnley Allan (Rocky) Jones Award - presented to an individual of African descent whose work reflects and builds upon his legacy of championing racial equality, advancing justice and fostering socio-economic empowerment and Wel' lukwen Award - presented to an L'nu individual (youth or adult), group or organization whose work advances the rights of Mi'kmaq/Indigenous people while creating a just, equitable and inclusive society.

The 2023 Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards will be presented in Halifax on Friday, December 8, in recognition of the United Nations International Human Rights Day on December 10. More information about the awards and the nomination form are available at: <https://humanrights.novascotia.ca/awards>

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**What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision?
Suture self!**

Guardian

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News from our Federal Capital - Dr. Stephen Ellis

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tistics released in the latter part of October indicate the per capita Nova Scotia gasoline computation in July was 133.5 litres per person, up from 115.5 in July 2022. This clearly shows the Liberal carbon tax isn't a climate plan, it is a tax plan, and it isn't working for people in Cumberland-Colchester. It simply ends up costing us more money to get groceries, go to work, and to move around our province.

Funding free addictive drugs must stop. As Shadow Minister of Health and House of Commons Health Committee (HESA) Deputy Chair, I am extremely concerned with the Trudeau government's unsupervised-funded hydromorphone distribution program. Hydromorphone is a potent addictive opioid, which is approximately four to seven times more powerful than morphine, depending on whether it is ingested or injected. The Conservative Party condemns this distribution program that fails to decrease hydromorphone use and, also alarming, enables addicts to divert part of their free dosages into the black market for high profits. It is our position these federal funds be repurposed toward addiction treatment and usage reduction facilities.

Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year: I had the great pleasure of attending a ceremony to recognize the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables 2023 Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner Award presentation. Beau Blois and his wife Laura of Old Barns, Colchester County, are this year's award winners. The event was held in what is known as Beau's Big Round Barn, a spectacular building that he has constructed. Their property is a mixture of a woodlot that sets an example for sustainable forestry. Beau and Laura also have a black angus beef farm, a rental space for concerts and events, as well as outdoor activities and wildlife habitats.

Forestry is a major economic driver in Cumberland-Colchester and the challenge is to create a renewed industry to move us toward future sustainability, diversity, and innovation.

Truth and Reconciliation. I was honoured to attend the spiritual healing ceremony held in early October. More than 1,000 people of all ages participated in the Truth and Reconciliation ceremonies at Millbrook First Nation. It was a ceremony for healing, recalling atrocities committed against children at residential schools, dealing with the present, and moving positively toward the future.

Un bilinguisme essentiel. Je suis de retour à Ottawa pour la session d'automne du Parlement. Le coût de la vie est notre défi majeur et la santé reste l'une de mes principales préoccupations. Je suis toujours disponible pour chaque électeur. Vous pouvez me contacter à stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

Noteworthy. Many thanks to the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to its Awards Night on October 19, as business continues to meet challenges of an ever-changing economy. I hope it was an enjoyable evening.

October 23 marked the 65th anniversary of the 1958 Springhill coal mine disaster, where 75 miners lost their lives, in what will always be remembered as The Bump. The Number 2 colliery was one of the deepest in the world, 99 miners were rescued.

Finally, I had a most enjoyable time presenting award ribbons at the Cobequid Dog Show that was held at Little Moe's K-9 Academy in Upper Brookside. If I'm invited back in 2024, I'll see about bringing my Granddaughter Angelina. She had a great time pointing at the various breeds!

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

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just those who can afford it - being able to access mental health and addictions care.

We're also holding opioid companies accountable for deceptive practices that have led to opioid-related injuries or illnesses with new legislation this session.

Every day, first responders place themselves in harm's way to keep us safe. That's why we're making May 1 First Responders' Day in Nova Scotia. These heroes deserve recognition for the essential role they play in the safety of our communities.

This session is also a historic one. Karla MacFarlane, MLA for Pic-

ton West, was elected the first female Speaker of the House of Assembly. Twila Grosse, recently elected MLA for Preston, took her seat as the first female African Nova Scotian cabinet minister. It took far too long to get here but my government is proud to see these remarkable women breaking down barriers and making history.

Your government is honoured to be in the House of Assembly representing Nova Scotians. We will continue to work year-round on your behalf.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at premier@novascotia.ca

News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart

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much concern that that was the beginning of the end. This current \$250,000 renovation and a ten-year contract with the building owners should put this to rest. I wish to sincerely thank the hard work of the very dedicated board of the society for their work on this as well as Nova Scotia Health for making this happen. Please note that the Society is still engaged and working on our behalf.

We are all aware that Climate Change and extreme weather events have taken a toll on Nova Scotians over the past year. Nova Scotia has a goal to reach a minimum of 80% green renewable energy by 2030. This past week our government released its plan to get to 80% renewables by 2030. Actually, our plan gets us to 88% by 2030. It is without question a priority to green our grid, we

made that very clear with Legislation in our first year. We will do this without any unnecessary burden on our Taxpayers. We will do this with a primarily made in Nova Scotia Solution. We will do this by focusing on solar and wind combined with battery storage. We will do this without building a \$9-billion transmission cable that would ensure that we are committed to buying power for the next 50 years, from another Province. A Province that at this very date in time cannot even guarantee that that power will be available. Let's move forward and make Nova Scotia a leader in Green Carbon Free Energy Production!

Tom Taggart, MLA, Colchester North can be reached at tom.taggartmla@gmail.com or (0) - 902-641-2335

News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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The Truro Curling Club will soon harness the power of the sun to help operate the facility following an early September announcement a \$200,000 investment in the club's solar energy.

"The Truro Curling Club has long been a hub for our community, and these upgrades will make the facility a sustainable gathering place that will continue to be cherished for generations to come," said Dave Ritcey, MLA for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River, on behalf of Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. "Communities are experts in identifying new ways to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Our government is proud to invest in these local community initiatives that are making a meaningful difference."

With this funding, the Truro Curling Club will purchase and install a solar energy system, which will help power the club and make ice for the curling rink. Generating electricity from sunlight

will create long-term cost savings and reduce the club's environmental impact.

The agriculture sector did not miss getting a share of government funding when Agriculture Minister Greg Morrow MLA Guysborough-Tracadie announced over \$4.4 million in investments for six key projects to help the agriculture sector adapt to climate change, on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Minister Tim Halman, MLA Dartmouth East.

The initiatives included: \$2.4 million to hire climate adaptation coordinators for sectors like horticulture and Christmas trees; \$1.9 million for wetland restoration along the Bay of Fundy, reducing flood risks and enhancing habitats and \$112,000 for a Flaxmobile project, promoting sustainable fiber flax cultivation

Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mritcey@bellaliant.com

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