

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

NS Reduces Fees, Eliminates Renewals for Skilled Trades

Nova Scotia is making it easier and more affordable to work in the skilled trades by removing red tape and reducing costs for thousands of trades professionals. Effective immediately, the Province has eliminated the five-year certification renewal requirement for journeypersons in most compulsory trades, such as plumber, construction electrician and boilermaker, which will save them time, money and paperwork. Additionally, experienced professionals in almost all trades – more than 70 occupations – will pay less to challenge their certification exam. The Province has reduced the cost to \$350 from \$644.15, bringing Nova Scotia more in line with other provinces and making it easier for experienced workers, including newcomers, to become certified. “Eliminating renewals and lowering fees removes unnecessary red tape for trades professionals,” said Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. “These common-sense changes save time and money, while helping more people gain certification and grow our skilled trades workforce.” These changes also reduce administrative work for the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, allowing staff to focus on apprentices and improve service standards. This change follows another recent step to streamline the system. On July 2, Nova Scotia began automatically recognizing provincial certifications from Alberta and Quebec for professionals in Red Seal skilled trades. That means tradespeople certified in those provinces can work in Nova Scotia without any further applications or approvals, even without a Red Seal endorsement.

Amendments Clarify Code of Conduct for Elected Officials

The Province is making changes to the code of conduct for elected officials to address feedback from municipalities about the complaints and investigation process. “We worked closely with our municipal partners to develop a code of conduct to provide elected officials with guidance on procedural standards and the level of professionalism expected of them,” said John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs. “Based on the feedback received from municipalities, we’re refining the language to enhance its clarity, reduce the administrative burden and protect against potential misuse.” Amendments to the regulations clarify that: Complaints may be made by a council member related to the conduct of another elected official in the same municipality; Council members may not submit a complaint on behalf of another person or entity and multiple complaints may not be submitted by a council member on the same subject. When multiple complaints have been received about the same subject, the investigator must consolidate the complaints into a single investigation, where appropriate. The changes do not apply to complaints and investigations already in progress. Now in effect, the changes will address the immediate needs of municipalities while discussions to strengthen and refine the administration of the code of conduct continue. The Province has committed to conducting a full review of the framework in 2027.

Province, Community Organization Preserve Affordable Housing in Dartmouth, Truro

The Province has partnered with Rooted, a community housing organization, to preserve close to 200 affordable housing units in Dartmouth and Truro. Rooted recently purchased six properties, with a total of 197 units, to protect their affordability and allow the current tenants to stay in their affordable homes. All of the units are occupied. The properties are located at 19 Primrose St. and 2 and 4 Franklyn Court in Dartmouth and 16 Park St. and 18 and 28 Minerva Dr. in Truro. The Province provided Rooted with more than \$6.8 million in grants and loans to support the purchase of the six properties - \$5,238,400 through the Community Housing Capital Fund and \$1,636,048 through the Community Housing Acquisition Program. This investment will ensure that the units remain affordable for a minimum of 30 years or until the mortgages mature. Since 2021, the Province has invested more than \$283 million in 3,054 affordable units, and these numbers continue to grow. In the first two years of the Province's five-year housing plan, 14,667 new housing units have been created or are in progress and the conditions have been created to pave the way for another 54,174 housing units for a total of 68,841 - 167 per cent of the 2028 goal.

continued on page 11

Turner's Excavating Celebrates 55 Years Digging Holes



Don purchased this red 1978 International from Hoyt and Patterson as his second dump truck.



One of the original Turner & Sons signs on a truck door.

By Linda Harrington

There are many home and business owners in Colchester County and beyond who have had Turner's Excavating do work for them over the past 55 years. Don Turner originally started this thriving business running a dump truck all by himself in 1970.

Don had been working for Texaco in his twenties, driving an oil truck when at the age of thirty he decided he wanted to work for himself. Don's wife Karen looked after the books and accounting throughout the years, retiring just three years ago.

His first job back in 1970 was running a dump truck for the building of the new Trans Canada Highway between Truro and Masstown.

The official name of his company was 2341323 Nova Scotia Limited because when he applied to register the company the name he wanted was already taken. Local customers have always known the business as Turner's Excavating on Onslow Mountain Road, Belmont.

Don drove used trucks when he was first getting started. He was pleased to finally buy his first new truck in 1974, a Chev from Good-

speed's, followed by a shiny red International from Hoyt and Patterson's in 1978 and a double front end tandem MAC in 1979.

Today the company's lengthy equipment list consists of 5 excavators, 4 dump trucks, 4 service trucks, a backhoe, loader, roller and screener.

The business has provided important services to the local community over the years and has also done a lot of work in Halifax, New Glasgow and

Amherst areas. New house construction has always kept them busy with septic tank installs, clearing lots, digging basements and building driveways. This has pretty much stayed the same today, but Don has recently seen less of a demand for basements and more for slabs.

One of the jobs both Don and Karen say they are most proud of was the development of their own subdivision just up the Onslow Mountain Road off Lornada Drive. A lot of hours went into getting the Fieldcrest Court subdivision ready for occupancy. They were pleased to have it sold to Patterson Home Sales for a new mini home park.

Turner's Excavating has had a few dedicated employees over the years including Charlie Rhuland and Shawn Densmore but their two sons, Michael and Dwayne have

been running the business with their father for many years. Connor Debison is currently employed with the company. Michael's wife Denise now does the accounting, since Karen has officially retired but retirement doesn't seem to be part of Don's plan.

At the young age of 85, Don still goes out to work every day when needed. "It is hard to get drivers," says Don, "So I tell the boys to give me a call when they need a load of sand or gravel hauled and I run the gravel through the screener as needed." He says the company is still as busy as it has always been and some days it is hard to keep up so an extra driver can be a big help.

Congratulations Turner Excavating, 2341323 Nova Scotia Limited and Don, Michael and Dwayne on 55 years in Business.

THE COLD WEATHER IS HERE!



Better Business Bureau

NS Power Time of Day Rates



**PREFERRED
CONTRACTOR**

PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that
ETS financing is NOW AVAILABLE (conditions apply)

Efficiency Nova Scotia **NOW** offers rebates for **OIL HEATED** homes as well as electric heated homes.

MAYNARD SIMPSON ELECTRIC
902.897.7859

WILSON
EQUIPMENT

**66 Atlantic Centre Drive,
Truro, NS B6L 2A3**



*"Congratulations Don on 55 Years in Business
and at the age of 85 still going strong and working every day."*

It is a family run business at Turner's Excavating. Both sons Dwayne and Michael have been working along with their parents Don and Karen for many years."