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Tuesdays 10:00-11:30

Outdoors: B.H. Rec Park, Guest Dr.  
Indoors: H.Douglas Boyce Village Hall

### Debert Playgroup

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30

Outdoors: Debert Base Playground  
Indoors: Debert Christian Fellowship Centre, 1533 Plains Rd Debert

### Stewiacke Playgroup

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30

Outdoors: Dennis Park, Stewiacke  
Indoors: Stewiacke Community Centre

### Truro Playgroup

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30

Maggie's Place, 1027 Prince St

### Tatamagouche Playgroup

Thursdays 10:00-11:30

Outdoors: Nelson Park, Hwy 6 loop  
Indoors: Tatamagouche Fire Hall

**Hilden/Brookfield Playgroup**  
Thursdays 10:00-11:30  
Outdoors:  
Hilden Rec Park, Wm Russell Road  
Indoors: Hilden Fire Hall

Drop In!

\*\* Call or check Facebook to see where we will be each day!

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# Future of Health Care in West Colchester

Continued from page 1

shared model with the new Masstown Collaborative Practice, to be located in the Masstown Pharmacy building across from Masstown Market. The two sites would share 2 family physicians, 2 nurse practitioners and administrative staff. Patients at each site could access services at either location.

Dr Harold Berghuis explained how updated electronic medical records makes the travel of patients and medical staff between these two locations much easier than in the past. Dr Berghuis used paper records his 28 years of family practice, and this required physically accessing these records but now with the current One Person One Record system he says these files are accessible wherever and whenever they are required.

Two options were presented for consideration. Option One: Keeps things much as they are, formalizing the current arrangement with WCMS.

Option Two: Transition to the NS Health oversight model with the Masstown Collaborative Clinic and the West Colchester Community Health Centre (WCCHC) operated by NS Health. WCMS would remain in an advisory role, with NS Health providing oversight of day-to-day operations.

The enhancements with Option Two would include access to a second site for clinic patients, strengthened team-based care, additional administrative support for WCCH staff, more collaboration opportunities between health care providers, increased access to PHC provider.

Community members had lots of questions for the NS Health panel. Serena Lewis, who had a position as a grief councillor following the mass shooting in neighbouring Portapique, expressed her concerns about mental health services not being met within the collaboration. She expressed the need for a deeply embedded



Members of the Nova Scotia Health Panel at the information session in Bass River on Sept. 21st included (left to right): Lindsay Sutherland, Director of Primary Care for Northern Zone, Dr. Harold Berghuis, Katie Heckman, Health Services Manager for Primary Health Care & Chronic Disease Management for Colchester East Hants Health Network, Jannah Fair, Director of Mental Health & Addiction for Northern Zone. (Harrington Photo)

collaborative model to help the local communities get back up on their feet again, looking at families need, community's needs and individual's that are being deeply impacted by the trauma and the grief that is still occurring."

Colchester County District 10 Councillor Victoria Lomond inquired about the process for the final approval of the options and suggested a survey be extended throughout the community to get more input.

Those in attendance made it clear they did not want to lose any services or staff currently part of West Colchester Community Health Centre, showing applause for support of Admin Staff Jennifer Welton and nurse prac-

titioners Kristi Withrow and Erika Baird. Joelle McLaughlin spoke on her wonderful experience with the nurse practitioners, and she wanted to make sure she would still have the choice to see a NP even if two doctors were part of the new collaboration. Lindsay Sutherland, Director of Primary Care for Northern Zone, assured Joelle the services in Bass River would be maintained and added, "I am so happy to see the community recognize and appreciate the nurse practitioners."

MLA Tom Taggart said he is in favour of rural collaborative health care centres, and he has a vision for not only primary care but also mental health, grief & trauma, geriatric care, nutrition, and more services. At the end

of the discussion Tom asked Dr. Berghuis to give an overview on the Virtual Care system, noting that even those with family doctors can wait a long time for an appointment.

Dr. Berghuis said Virtual Care pilot project was put in place about 18 months ago to deal with over 100,000 people without a family doctor. It was started in the Northern and Western Zones and those on the Need a Family Practice Registry were invited to join the program. Now anyone in Nova Scotia on the Registry can access Virtual Care.

An audience member spoke up to say he had used Virtual Care and it worked great. Dr. Berghuis said Virtual Emergency Care is now being used in the Emergency Department at the



Victoria Hall in Bass River was packed with community members on Sept. 21st interested in an information session presented by the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the West Colchester Medical Society on Health Services in Bass River & West Colchester. (Harrington Photo)



Joe Whalen, Chair of West Colchester Medical Society was the moderator for the information session. (Harrington Photo)



Left to right: Jennifer Welton, Admin Staff for the West Colchester Community Health Centre, Kristi Withrow, Nurse Practitioner at the West Colchester Health Centre and Joelle McLaughlin, Massage Therapist, patient, and supporter of the West Colchester Health Centre. Absent from photo is Erika Baird, the second Nurse Practitioner at the Centre. (Harrington Photo)



MLA for Colchester North, Tom Taggart passes along his appreciation to the West Colchester Medical Society for the great job they have done to secure medical services for the West Colchester area. (Harrington Photo)

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## Storm

Last weekend was the proper time to live in the Parrsboro area. Parrsboro was hit light compared with so many other areas. No tidal surf as the winds were off-shore. Lawrence Nicoll, who supplied these two photos said there were no harbour waves at all. A lot of trees down but he never saw any on houses, just close calls. In all his touring around, these two photos were the worst he could see. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)



Topped trees across the road with downed power lines at the Parrsboro Golf Course



See also Fiona photos on page 2.

## Battlefields in Northeastern Areas

While Hurricane Fiona devastated areas of the province a large part of the province suffered much lighter wind damage causing downed power lines and loss of power to approximately 275,000 NS Power customers province wide. The Truro areas eastward to Strait of Canso damage resulted from large urban trees, which crushed vehicles, landed in living room, causing some areas to be without electricity for 7-10 days after Friday's ravaging on September 23.

The storm path appears most as it you drew a line from Halifax to Great Village, then continued across northern Nova Scotia to the Northumberland Strait into PEI. Anything to the left was spared major damage, with isolated pocket of debris. However anything to the right of the line Truro, Pictou and Eastern Shore, Sherbrooke, Guysborough, Strait Canso and into Cape Breton look like battlefields.