

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

1758 Journals Available Online

The public will now have electronic access to all of the Nova Scotia Legislative Library's historical journals dating from 1758. The journals include minutes of the House of Assembly, beginning with the first meeting in 1758, and other information and reports. Initially hand-written, the journals illuminate government responses to important events while detailing the evolution of Nova Scotia as a province and the everyday lives of its people.

Library staff digitized the remaining journals - from 1758 to 1766 and 1901 to 2003 - during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, researchers and members of the public had to visit the library in person to review the material or request that it be sent to them. The electronic publications are expected to be used by researchers worldwide.

Leadership Changes in various departments

New leadership is being put in place at the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Dr. Nicole Boutilier, Vice-President of Medicine, Nova Scotia Health, and Craig Beaton, Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Wellness, will be responsible for the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment. This team approach will bring together the recruitment efforts of both organizations to get the best possible results.

Dr. Kevin Orrell, former deputy minister and CEO for the recruitment office, is now special advisor to the President of Cape Breton University. Dr. Orrell will focus on the university's strategic health initiative, particularly expanding the university's health faculties.

Rosalind Penfound, a former provincial deputy minister, will serve as interim Deputy Minister of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Recruitment for a permanent deputy minister will soon be underway, as current Deputy Minister Cathy Montreuil leaves the civil service. Elwin LeRoux will serve as the new Associate Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. Mr. LeRoux has led the province's largest regional education centre since 2013 and has decades of experience as a teacher, principal and administrator.

Child Abuse Register Search Now Online

People who need a Child Abuse Register check for work or volunteering now have a faster, more convenient way to apply for a search to confirm they are not in the register. The new online application process means people will usually receive confirmation letters within two to three weeks. The Child Abuse Register keeps a record of the names of people that the Nova Scotia provincial court or family court has found to have caused harm to a child. Organizations and employers can request proof that people are not in the register if they are going to be in contact with children 18 and under for work or a volunteer position. As part of its screening process, the Department also requires people interested in being foster parents, adoptive parents or employees or volunteers who work with children to do a register check.

People who require proof that they are not on the Child Abuse Register can get more information and apply for a search at: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>. Anyone who needs assistance with the application can call the Child Abuse Register at 902-424-6798. Confirmation letters are sent to the applicant by mail. There is no cost for the search service.

News from our Federal Capital

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of Canada (FPAC) held a reception to describe how their association contributes to the fight against climate change. Later in the week, I met with an organization called Connected Canadians, and they highlighted the programs and training resources they provide seniors with to teach them digital literacy.

While I have spent a considerable amount of time in Ottawa, I have made time to attend events in our community.

I was able to attend some of the festivities taking place over the Truro Harvest Festival. I particularly enjoyed seeing all the scarecrows in the Scarecrow Village. More events are taking place

in October, you can find specific activities and dates at Truro Harvest Festival - Downtown Truro Partnership. (Contact office for workable link).

It has been a busy and fulfilling month. I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again all for your support in allowing me to serve as your Member of Parliament. I will continue to work hard to bring positive change. In the meantime, if you need any assistance with federal-related issues, 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

News from our Provincial Council

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tient has been triaged in ER, and given, that the more critical needs move to the top of the list. A qualified and trained employee will then approach those less critical on the list and ask if they wish to have their needs met by a virtual care doctor. If that person wishes, they are taken to a room and helped to navigate the computer system and their medical needs are then addressed virtually. This is taken a tremendous burden off the ER staff and has reduced the wait time for those that are in the ER because they do not have a family doctor.

Last week I met with the Minister of Public works and staff to discuss issues and challenges in Colchester North. I believe it was a very productive meeting.

An issue that I asked to discuss, that has the possibility to be contentious is road salt. I hate road salt and the damage it does to our roads as well as the environment. The freeze thaw cycle on our roads continuously destroys. Just look at Trunk 2 from Great Village to Five Islands. The salt melts the snow, the water runs into the cracks in the road, it refreezes, expands, open the crack a little bit more and a little bit more all winter long.

With respect to the environment, Public Works recently gave us a presentation where they showed the total annual salt tonnage per kilometre on our highways. I do not remember the exact number. I assure you if that amount was accidentally spilled on a highway

in the summer there would be a call for an environmental clean up. Now before anyone panics, I am not suggesting we change anything on our main trunk roads!

I have asked for a pilot project that would replace salt with sand, on secondary roads, low traffic, no need to go 80 km per hour. The road would still be plowed on the same schedule. The only difference is that it would be sanded.

Two things, it will ensure these roads last longer, less potholes and cracking. Secondly it would save money that hopefully or at least in my proposal would save a significant amount of money which then could be used in the same area for summertime maintenance. How much money you ask. Salt costs approx. \$76 per tonne plus trucking from Wentworth. Sand cost approx. \$8 a tonne plus trucking from right here in West Colchester.

I have NOT RECEIVED SUPPORT from Public Works on this. However I am asking your opinion. Please email me at tom.taggartmla@gmail.com with your thoughts pro or con. The roads I am speaking about would be roads like, Edgewood, East Montrose, Scrabble Hill, Maple Ave, those kind of local traffic roads. Not, Trunk 2 or Station Roads or higher volume.

Again Hope everyone weathered the storm and looking forward to a great fall.

Tom Taggart, MLA, Colchester North. (O) - 902-641-2335 and tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

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is eligible and eligible services is available: at the program website: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-help-household-costs-seniors-care-grant>; by email: seniorsgrant@novascotia.ca; by calling toll-free: 1-800-670-4357. Applications close on March 31, 2023.

Virtual Care Available to More Patients: All Nova Scotians on the Need a Family Practice Registry can now get free, online medical appointments through Virtual Care Nova Scotia.

Previously, people had to receive an email invitation to use Virtual-CareNS. As of August 31, anyone on the Need a Family Practice registry can sign up for the service. The program enables people on the registry to have online appointments with a family doctor or nurse practitioner, until they can be served by a practice in their community.

The service launched as a pilot in May 2021. Since then, more than 21,000 virtual appointments have taken place. Nova Scotians have received care and advice for mental health concerns, prescription renewals, skin problems, infections, minor injuries, joint pain and other issues.

Patients whose health concerns cannot be resolved virtually will be provided with options for in-person care. There are about 150 to 200 virtual appointments available each weekday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and on Monday evenings until 7 p.m.

To use VirtualCareNS, people must live in Nova Scotia, be without a primary care provider and be on the Need a Family Practice Registry. To get on the registry, people should call 811 or visit: <https://needafamilypractice.nshhealth.ca/>

Once on the registry, people can visit <https://virtualcarens.ca> and use their Nova Scotia health card to get a virtual appointment.

Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Available, Fall Vaccine Rollout Begins: Nova Scotia will be offering a fall dose of COVID-19 vaccine to people 12 years and older, beginning with people who are most vulnerable. Starting September 15, people aged 65 or older can book their appointment. Appointments will be available starting Monday, September 19.

Appointments for fall doses will be available in the coming weeks to Nova Scotians, based on age, who don't meet those criteria. Nova Scotia has accepted the recommendation of the National Advisory

Committee on Immunization (NACI) and will offer the Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to people aged 18 and older.

Public Health recommends Nova Scotians 18 and older who are eligible for their fall dose receive a dose of bivalent vaccine rather than the original vaccine. It is also recommended that people receive the current Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine when eligible rather than waiting for potential COVID-19 vaccines that have yet to be approved in Canada.

For most people in Nova Scotia, the recommended interval between any COVID-19 vaccine doses after the primary series is 168 days since their last vaccine. People who have become infected with COVID-19 should wait 168 days from their infection before receiving their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Some people, such as those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and people 70 years and older, are eligible for a shortened interval of 120 days from their last vaccine. If these people become infected with COVID-19, they should wait 120 days from their infection before receiving their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Cedarstone Enhanced Care: 20th Anniversary: It was an honor to attend the 20th Anniversary celebration for Cedarstone Enhanced Care in Truro on September 15.

Home to well over 100 residents, Cedarstone has been a leader in our community in providing compassionate enhanced care to residents and their families through a variety of specialized amenities, programs and services. Enhanced care of this level is an essential service in our community and I am so grateful to have such an incredible facility here in Truro.

Thank you to the incredible staff at Cedarstone for your continued dedication and compassionate care.

As always, I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunity to be your MLA. If you know of anyone who may be interested in receiving 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.

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