

County Council Election Coverage
 Colchester Presented by **The Shoreline Journal**
 be centred here.

Campaigning in District 9 has been a rewarding experience in east coast hospitality, however one concern voiced in almost every conversation is the increasing cost of living. As assessment values rise even faster than the cost of living there is an opportunity to lower tax rates to provide relief. It is a discussion we need to pursue.

Roads, community policing, assistance for seniors, and animal control were also recurring themes.

Addressing the road issues of potholes, treed ditches, and dust requires a more collaborative system with the province. There are public safety concerns about the lack of police presence that

could be addressed with a regional police service. Our residents deserve a new model for community policing, therefore it needs to be a priority of our Council.

Fiscal responsibility, a focus on core services, and more support for community events and organizations are my priorities. To support and improve these priorities I value communication, transparency, civility, and respect. Good things are being done in Colchester, but we can improve. Improvement only happens with commitment and hard work. I have 37 years of experience working with all levels of government. I am ready to roll up my sleeves.



Andrew MacKinnon

Andrew MacKinnon, municipal election candidate District 9; 902-814-0113, andrew.jmackinnon@outlook.com

2024 Doug MacInnes - Candidate District 10

Candidates in District 9 & 10 were asked to complete and submit a questionnaire composed by The Shoreline Journal. Questions are printed in *italic*, while candidate's answers are printed in **BOLD. The following is the submission from Doug MacInnes candidate for District 10.**



Doug MacInnes

What do you consider to be the strongest asset of your electoral district and how it can contribute to an even better Municipality of Colchester?

Strong Economic Development with a focus on Tourism and Farming is crucial for District 10. Home to the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, Bay of Fundy and home of Mi'kam'ki. We have a unique history to tell the world and attract tourist from all over the world. Our Farming community needs our support to continue their growth and create local development opportunities which will benefit the whole of Colchester County.

How will you assist residents to co-operate and urge the municipality to ensure better services are provided to the very remote rural areas?

In my experience as a County Councillor the rural residents are very willing to co-operate with the municipality when the lines of communication are open, as they are kept informed by the county. It is up to the Councillors to create a co-operative environment. One way of doing this is through regular community meetings with open and honest communication.

What services need to be improved so your district achieves and delivers a better lifestyle for all residents?

School busing and excess to our beautiful shoreline are two issues which need to be approved upon in District 10. Although any residents issue needs to be understood and followed up on by the area councillor. The annual policing budget in another issue for the entire County of Colchester which needs to be reviewed. We as the investors in policing in our County are not getting what we are paying for.

Everyone complains about condition of roads and highways. Since rural residents have to travel farther for everyone - work / shopping / medical, banking and government service should rural areas be prioritized?

Roads owned and maintained by the County need to be prioritized by the condition they are in and the amount of traffic usage on a daily basis. It is also time the County purchased their own road grader for our gravel roads rather than depending on the Province Department of Public Works to grade these roads for us.

Should a plan be developed to improve, pave or repave all county owned roads within five years?

It would be nice if this were possible to accomplish within a five-year time frame. Although five years is too short of a timeframe to achieve such a goal and still be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Colchester County.

Based on tri-government level of financing (Feds/Province/Municipal) should the municipality pay half its 1/3 or (20% share - based Feds 40% / Prov 40%) from general revenues, while applying an area rate based on assessment to all tax bills for the remainder, should the municipality develop a five or ten year plan to pave all County-owned and J Class Roads?

This is something which must be financially analyzed to determine if it is fiscally possible over such a timeframe. Also, consideration would have to be given to those residents who have already entered into financial agreements with the County determined by the amount of road frontage they own. At the end of the day such a plan would have to be fair to all residents not just those requesting their road be paved or repaved.

With an aging population should the municipality encourage more senior and long term care housing facilities be developed and those facilities be built in the rural areas, which would allow residents to remain in their community and also be a job provider?

Yes, my family was very fortunate to have Debert Court in our community when our mother was in need of such care. It should be a priority of County Council to assure our seniors can continue to live in the communities they contributed to in so many ways over their lifetime.

Many rural students feel a college education, is not for them, but prefer "trades". What would you recommend as the best way to encourage students to follow "trades"?

As in the Heating & Cooling industry I work in each day, job terms are a great way for young people to experience different opportunity's well gaining practical experience. NSCC and our local high schools already has many of these types of programs in place. It's my experience the NSCC along with our local guidance councillors in our high schools are working closely with all trades in developing opportunities for our youth to explore.

Staying in school is vital. How would you recommend "students at risk" be given opportunity for part classroom time combined with "supervised work term" at local or nearby business to learn basics of a trade but get high school diploma?

Once again there already is a program in place at our local high schools to give students the opportunity to experience different trades well gaining credits through short term work experiences. The Heating & Cooling industry has taken advantage of these programs for several years.

The ability of Colchester communities / residents to be able to communicate with their nearby neighbours or to the other end of the county is vital. The reverse is true, it is essential the county be able to easily and economically contact area residents and business en masse. To achieve this would you support a \$25 annual fee be added to every property tax bill with proceeds used by communities to develop a "Local economic / family assistance fund" or "Aid to Entrepreneurs Fund"?

This is a subject which would have to be explored by staff and council. If it was supported by a majority vote, then it would have to be tendered out and cost analyzed before making a final decision. Although in my experience there are many social media platforms in existence which would be cost efficient enough to not increase taxpayers County tax bills.

More Pharmacy Primary Care Clinics to Open

More Nova Scotians will soon have access to a community pharmacy primary care clinic closer to home.

Fourteen new pharmacies will join the pilot program this fall. In addition, the six Lawton's Pharmacy Walk-in Clinic+ sites have transitioned to the Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic program, uniting both models under one project umbrella.

The first community pharmacy primary care clinics launched in February 2023. Since then they have provided more than 190,000 services to Nova Scotians. Pharmacists in these clinics provide a full scope of practice, including treating minor ailments and providing medication management for chronic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). They can also diagnose and treat strep throat and provide additional publicly funded vaccines, among other services.

A complete list of services and locations that are booking appointments is available at <https://pans.ns.ca/cppcc>. New locations will be added as they open.

Allison Bodnar, CEO, Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia said, "This project has transformed the way primary care is delivered in Nova Scotia. In a year and a half, community pharmacy primary care clinics have contributed to the decrease of emergency room visits by close to 10 per cent, provided over 190,000 services to Nova Scotians, and revitalized the pharmacy profession. What we are doing in Nova Scotia is having real impacts on the pharmacy profession and the delivery of primary care services worldwide. We are showing the world what pharmacy teams can do, and how we can

change healthcare for the better. We are delighted to expand these clinics into more communities." After expansion there will be 45 community pharmacy primary care clinics across the province with the Province investing about \$440,000 this year to expand the pilot to 14 more sites. In Colchester, Cumberland and neighbouring Hants Counties new community pharmacy primary care clinics opening this fall include: Kennetcook Pharmacy, 6202 Hwy. 354, unit 2, Kennetcook and Lawton's Pharmacy Clinic, 2 Lawrence St., Suite 101,

Amherst. The Lawton's Pharmacy Walk-in Clinic+ sites (local area) that are now part of the community pharmacy primary care clinic model include: Lawton's Pharmacy Clinic, 810 East River Rd., Suite 211, New Glasgow and Lawton's Pharmacy Clinic, 316 Wil- low St., Suite 206, Truro.

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RE-ELECT

VICTORIA LOMOND
"I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!"

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE. BE HEARD.

FOR DISTRICT 10 COLCHESTER

AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT OF VICTORIA LOMOND

EVOTING STARTS AT 8:30AM OCTOBER 7TH UNTIL 7:00PM OCTOBER 19TH

ELECTION DAY IS OCTOBER 19TH 8:00AM - 7:00PM IN-PERSON AND ELECTRONIC

CONTACT ME AT: (902) 890-1493 EMAIL: VLOMOND@COLCHESTER.CA

Colchester
 be centred here.

Council Meeting
 Wednesday, Sept 25 @ 6pm

Presentations Meeting
 Tuesday, October 1 @ 6pm

Municipal Election 2024
 Saturday, October 19.
 Polls Open 8am - 7pm

Council Meeting
 Wednesday, October 30 @ 6pm

Municipality of Colchester, 1 Church Street, Truro
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