

NOVA SCOTIA

Legislative Session Helped Workers, Promoted Economic Growth

The government passed legislation that will help workers and create an environment for improved economic growth during the latest session of the House of Assembly, which ended on Friday, September 20.

"We are standing up for Nova Scotians and will continue to do so," said Premier Tim Houston. "Our legislation supports workers and families, will help industry grow to create rural jobs, and ensures we can keep building homes to tackle the housing crisis. This session also saw the members of the legislature debate important issues impacting Nova Scotians. While in the legislature we repeated calls to end the federal carbon tax - the federal government's tax costs Nova Scotians nearly \$400 million per year."

The legislature also debated matters such as the Chignecto Isthmus and the federal government's proposal to send more asylum seekers to Nova Scotia. "Our position on the isthmus is

clear - we believe this is a federal project," said Premier Houston. "We will continue to advocate for the best deal for Nova Scotians."

Premier Houston said the federal proposal to send more asylum seekers to Nova Scotia is unacceptable: "We have a strategic and sustainable plan to grow our population over the long-term. Ottawa's plan to suddenly send 6,000 asylum seekers to our province is unsustainable and wouldn't be in the best interest of Nova Scotians."

Legislation passed this session includes: - Act to Establish a Department of Emergency Management and the Nova Scotia Guard Act; Health Professional Associations Continuation Act; Stronger Workplaces for Nova Scotia Act; Interim Residential Rental Increase Cap Act and Residential Tenancies Act; Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act; French-language Services Act and the NDP's Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act.

County Council Election Coverage

Presented by **Shoreline Journal**

I have been asked numerous times on the campaign trail way I would want to become a County Councillor again. There are several reasons but mainly it's fiscal responsibility. All too often Councillors get elected and for some reason quickly forget their responsibility to the public they serve when it comes to investing their tax dollars. During my previous time on council, I repeated the same message many times. "Stop spending taxpayers' money and start investing it".

For example, passing the full amount of the \$6.7 million RCMP policing budget in the 2024 budget. Although for the past several years Councillors have been aware of the RCMP's difficulties with the lack of staffing. Leaving our County with approximately 50 to 60% of the service we are paying for on any given day. Let's work with the RCMP to help in their efforts well rebuilding their staff but at the same time renegotiate a new contract with the Province and the RCMP. One which reflects the true value of the service the public is provided. If this is not possible then we need to revisit the option of having a county police service in connection with the Town of Truro and Stewiacke. Can you imagine paying for a third-party service in the private sector but only receiving 50% of what you paid for? It would never happen, so why should it be happening with taxpayer's dollars?

Other budgetary items which need to be reviewed is the almost \$50,000 annual salary a councillor is now earning for a part time job. Where else can you get a part time job in Colchester County and earn \$50,000 a year? I've done this job and it's not a \$50,000 a year posi-

tion.

The \$3 million annual operation and subsidies budget the RECC is receiving from the County and the Town of Truro is another item which is way overdue for a review.

Although the one item which disturbs me the most is the \$13 to \$17 million walking bridge to nowhere across the Salmon River located at the Fundy Discovery Centre in Lower Truro. If we could afford this luxury, it may be another story but at this point it's a total waste of taxpayers' dollars. This item also was voted unanimously by our current council. When the tenders came back much higher than expected they then proceeded to put it out as a Request for Proposal (RFP). This would allow a company to design and build the walking bridge to nowhere. This proposal needs to be put to bed until a concept is put in place to generate revenue at the Fundy Discovery Centre site. Which could pay for such luxuries. Along with consultation with the landowners and residents on the other side of the river.

Colchester has a \$47 Million budget. As a councillor it's your responsibility to help operate the County the same as you would a private company with a \$47 million budget. The Council is the Board of Directors, the staff are the workers, and the residents are the investors. You the investors deserve a return on every tax dollar invested by the Council. Weather it's Financial, Health and Wellness or Roads, there must be a return! "Stop Spending Taxpayers Money and Start Investing it"

If you would like to speak further on any of these or other subjects, please contact me at 902-814-8104 or email macinnesdougmasstown@gmail.com



Doug MacInnes

October Busy Time at Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce

By **Maurice Rees**

October is going to be a very busy time for Chelsey, Weatherbee, interim Executive Director, Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce as she leads the chamber's hosting three forums on the upcoming Municipal Election as follows: Colchester County Municipal Forum, September 26th, 4:30 pm, Truro Fire Hall; Town of Truro Municipal Forum October 2nd, 5 pm, Truro Fire Hall and Stewiacke Municipal Forum October 3rd, 6:30 pm, Stewiacke Com-



munity Centre, plus other events including:

Women in Business Breakfast on October 9th at 8:30 AM at the Best Western Gleggarry for an inspiring morning dedicated to women breaking new ground in the trades. This empowering breakfast event features a panel of trailblazing women

ready to share their stories, challenges, and triumphs.

Attendees will hear from Shannon Landsberg of Kings Freight Lines; Kara McCurdy of Halifax Fire, and Becca Rosborough from Elevate Aviation. These dynamic women are making waves in their fields and are eager to share and inspire the next genera-

tion of women in trades. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

The breakfast is sponsored in collaboration with Grant Thornton, Royal Bank of Canada, RBC Dominion Securities, Invest Nova Scotia, Burchell MacDougall, BDC, and the Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity.

Then on October 24th is the annual Small Business Awards. (See story on page 13 of this issue).

2024 Cheryl-ann Slack - 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 Cheryl-ann Slack, candidate for District 10.**



Cheryl-ann Slack

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?

Our strongest asset is our people. We need to ensure that we're creating sustainable employment opportunities and infrastructure to improve the lives of our current residents while encouraging businesses, industry and future residents to move here.

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

I'm committed to listening to the constituents of District 10 and bringing their concerns to the forefront. The best way to achieve better services throughout District 10 is to work collaboratively with other councillors.

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

We need to continue to improve access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet throughout our district. We also need to improve access to medical services in our communities.

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

I think the roads that are the most in need of improvement and repairs should be given priority, and I believe that the majority of these roads fall within rural Nova Scotia.

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

An assessment of the county owned roads should be done on a regular basis to ensure that the roads throughout the county are being maintained in an appropriate and equitable manner.

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?

I think the County needs to work with the Province to devise a plan to ensure that roads throughout the County are brought to an appropriate level of repair and ensure there is an attainable and manageable plan to maintain them going forward. As for financing these repairs, discussions would need to be held amongst County Council.

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?

I would absolutely support this! Our seniors shouldn't be forced to leave their communities and families at a time when they need to have their loved ones close to them. I can imagine having to move up to 100 km away from your home can be traumatizing. Building the facilities and staffing them would create sustainable a job stream that rural Nova Scotia desperately needs.

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"?

I see careers in trades as an integral part of our way forward. We are faced with a retiring workforce that needs to pass their knowledge and skills onto the younger generations. Offering programs and courses in schools such as the O2 CEP programs offered at CEC are great ways to provide students with experience and options to explore and learn before giving up education or racking up a large student debt.

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?

Encouraging and promoting programs such as O2 and CEP are key to assisting at risk students complete their education and gain meaningful skills and employment.

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 an interesting concept and I'd be interested in learning more about it. I'm certainly open to pursuing discussions regarding this, but there would need to be measures put in place to ensure that the funds collected would be used in an appropriate and equitable manner.

RE-ELECT MAYOR BLAIR

Leadership. Competence. Compassion.

FOR COLCHESTER COUNTY

**TELEPHONE AND E-VOTING: STARTING MONDAY, OCT. 7
IN-PERSON ON ELECTION DAY: SATURDAY, OCT. 19 - 8 AM TO 7 PM
LEARN MORE: BLAIRFORMAYOR.CA**



Christine Blair's commitment and tireless work for the communities she serves is admirable. I believe her continued leadership, dedication, and vision will be a benefit to us all over the next several years.

- Laurie Jennings, Owner of Masstown Market

I have worked with her on two distinct portfolios: Canadian Veterans in direct reference to funding and participation in events honouring Veterans at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River and more recently an attempt to secure Grief and Trauma support... Mayor Blair made herself available for meetings and discussions, asking astute and appropriate questions, gaining the insight required to move the issues forward to the appropriate people or agencies, in different levels of government.

... 'showing up', is a true sign of leadership with and among the people she represents. Experience and integrity of purpose are assets for this community going forward. They are found in this candidate.

- Karen Ewing MD CCFP-FCFP

The Deadline for the November issue of **Shoreline Journal** is October 22