

**County Council Election Coverage**  
 Colchester Presented by **The Shoreline Journal**  
 Valuing Community and Volunteerism.  
 I am proud to come from a family that values community and volunteerism and have always strove to help out whenever and wherever needed. I'm proud to say that my family has roots in District 10 back to the 1800s.  
 For those who don't know me, I have lived in Highland Village since 1988, except when I was away at university. I come from a large, sometimes loud, family and am blessed to be Aunt Shiny to 3 amazing young men. I have worked in law firms of varying sizes, from 2 lawyers to over 150 lawyers since 1999, while completing

my Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Library Information Studies. These experiences have allowed me to garner a multitude of skills and experiences that I feel would make me a good candidate for District 10 Councillor.  
 I am an organized, hard worker with a proven track record of working collaboratively as part of a team and on my own.  
 I look forward to getting to know you all over the course of the next month, and the years to come.  
 Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have.  
**Cheryl-ann Slack, candidate District 10, Phone: 902-956-3412; Email: cheryl-ann.slack@dal.ca**



Cheryl-ann Slack

**2024 Marie Benoit - Candidate District 9**

**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 Marie Benoit incumbent candidate for District 9.**



Marie Benoit

*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?*

**Debert Business Park and the Debert Airport are the strongest assets in District 9. The municipality owns over 2500 acres of commercial development land in Debert and Colchester is proactively working to develop the park to become a commercial hub for manufacturing, transportation, and logistics. Our current council has had a lot of success during this past term, entering agreements with 12 companies to develop new commercial buildings and operate out of Debert Business Park. This development and future growth will increase Colchester's commercial tax base (without having to raise taxes for citizens), while increasing employment opportunities in District 9, attract and produce housing development in the region, and support future infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks, public transit, and water and sewer servicing. Council has set Debert as one of its priority projects.**

*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 am a strong advocate for community engagement and feel it is a necessity. We must ensure engagement happens in every rural community by way of town hall and information sessions by the Municipality or businesses that are looking to develop.**

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

**Road maintenance is always at the top of the list, however, given that many roads are provincially owned, which makes it difficult as a municipal councillor. I would guess about 80% of my calls are about Provincial roads or the need for ditching and vegetation clearing. In District 9 we also have an overwhelming need for garbage removal when it comes to littering, although littering is an issue in most districts, Plains rd and Lancaster Crescent seem to be over the top and thankful for our volunteers and a special thank you to Kathy Barnhill that spends countless hours in the ditches picking up after others.**

*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? As a councillor for a rural district, I believe our rural areas should be*

prioritized. I speak with seniors struggling to get into town for appointments, groceries and to pay bills. As well as young families often need to go to town for some recreational activities, although we are blessed for our local volunteers always trying to bring recreational and social activities to their individual communities with surrounding communities welcomed.

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

**I believe county owned roads should be assessed annually and added to a five-year plan.**

*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?*

**Looking forward to seeing the new Service exchange agreement before I make any comments**

*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, I would fully support more long-term care facilities in rural areas similar to Debert Court. Rural residents want to stay in their community where possible and a lot of times their families and friends are still in those communities so they can stay close for visits.**

*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"?*

**Incentives such as graduation bonus that helps offset the cost of their education, with signed agreements that these trade workers stay in our county for a Minimum of 3 to 5 years.**

*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?*

**I would recommend that all jr and senior high adopt the CEP and O2 programs as options for these students. My son was enrolled in CEP and excelled and also gained confidence in himself that I didn't see in junior high.**

*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"?*

**With all the Provincial and Federal program grants currently available to our residents I don't believe this is necessary at this time but is something I would consider should these programs run out.**

**Amended Legislation Advances Nova Scotia Opportunities**

Amendments to several pieces of legislation introduced on September 10, will advance Nova Scotia opportunities through public safety measures, promoting the renewable energy industry and strengthening regulations for important industries in the province.

"We're making changes that help improve public safety and strengthen industries in rural Nova Scotia," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "We want our people to flourish and our industries to boom. These amendments are taking us in that direction."  
 The Advancing Nova Scotia

Opportunities Act is an omnibus bill that addresses seven pieces of legislation:

**The Forests Act**, to increase public protection from the ever-growing risk of wildfires: increasing fines for charges requiring a court appearance; removing exemptions to daily burn restrictions.

**The Canada-Nova Scotia Off-shore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act**, to expand the mandate of the Canada-Nova Scotia Off-shore Petroleum Board to regulate offshore renewable energy projects and

power lines.  
**The Marine Renewable-energy Act**, to ensure a timely path forward for offshore wind development.

**The Gas Distribution Act**, to support investments in low-carbon fuels such as hydrogen and renewable natural gas; gas distribution is regulated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

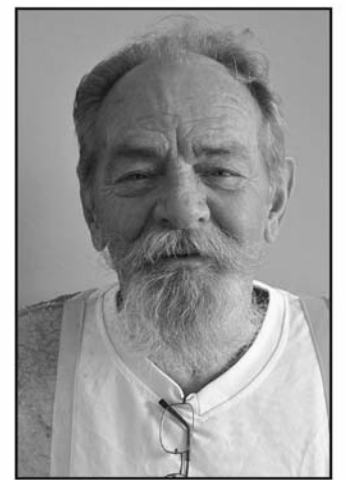
**The Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act**, to improve the licensing process for low-impact sustainable aquaculture in response to extensive consultation with the industry and other

stakeholders.  
**The Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission Act**, to update language reflecting its remaining Maritime provincial members. There are three licensed active harness racing tracks in

**The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits**  
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**Nova Scotia Lighthouse Project Call for Proposals**  
 The Nova Scotia Lighthouse project is now accepting proposals for an innovation challenge to address childhood obesity and chronic disease in the province. Organizations registered to do business in Canada - for profit or not for profit - may submit a proposal for consideration that focuses on at least one of four priority areas.  
 The areas of focus include: expanding access to healthy food; promoting healthy eating; designing communities that promote physical activity, free play and active transportation and reducing screen time and sedentary behaviour. The call for proposals closes October 18 before a rigorous evaluation and multi-stage review process begins. Organizations whose proposals are approved will be invited to submit a detailed application for funding. Information on the challenge and how to submit a proposal is available at: <https://lighthouses.ca/the-challenge/>  
 In May 2023, the Province and Denmark signed a memorandum of understanding focused on improving the health-care system, which established four areas of collaboration. Non-communicable disease management and care is one of the areas this partnership and innovation challenge will address.  
 The Nova Scotia Lighthouse project is a result of the partnership with Denmark and is based on a concept from the Danish Business Promotion Agency, Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Novo Nordisk, research institutions and technology companies.  
**2024 Human Rights Awards Call for Nominations Open**  
 People are encouraged to submit nominations for this year's Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards presented annually to Nova Scotians whose work advances human rights in the province. People can nominate individual Nova Scotians and groups who have demonstrated excellence in this area until November 1.  
 Award categories are: Youth (up to age 20) - for work that promotes equity and inclusion, advances understanding of human rights and its importance in empowering youth to advocate for themselves, their peers and their communities; Individual (age 21 and older) - someone who demonstrates leadership and whose work has contributed to change in their community by advancing equity, inclusion, and the value in promoting and protecting human rights; Group/Organization - its collective action serves to protect dignity, advance equity, promote inclusion, and raise awareness of human rights in Nova Scotia; Dr. Burnley Allan (Rocky) Jones Award - presented to an individual of African descent whose work reflects and builds upon his legacy of championing racial equality, advancing justice and fostering socio-economic empowerment and Wel'ukwen Award - presented to an L'nu individual (youth or adult), group or organization whose work advances the rights of Mi'kmaq/Indigenous people while creating a just, equitable and inclusive society.  
 The 2024 Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards will be presented in Halifax on Tuesday, December 10, to mark the United Nations International Human Rights Day. More information about the awards and the nomination form are available at: <https://humanrights.novascotia.ca/awards>  
 Nominations for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards are open year-round, with a public call issued in early autumn.  
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**ELECT DISTRICT 11**  
**ALLAN KENNEDY**  
 A vote for Allan Kennedy is a vote for our Community!  
 Learn More  
 902-956-1793  
[kennedyallan@gmail.com](mailto:kennedyallan@gmail.com)

**Hi, I'm Mike Rushton**  
 I live in Bass River and I'm 73 years old. I have lived sixty eight years of my 73 in District 10 and know the majority of you who live here. I'm not a great speaker, but not shy when speaking my mind when needed.  
 I make no promises except, I will do whatever possible to fight for our way of life in our district. I have seen alot come and go in our communities. I will do all I can to defend our way of life. From our work to our home we seem to have lost out on a lot from our roads, power upgrades, communication and infrastructure.  
 I ask for your support in the upcoming election, and I hope to have the opportunity to represent you. If you call me with a issue I will do the best of getting you a answer and call you back to give you the answer.  
 Sincerely yours, Mike Rushton  
**Mike Rushton, District 10 candidate,**  
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 902 890 9378 or 902 647 2037



Mike Rushton