

**County Council Election Coverage**  
 Colchester Presented by **The Shoreline Journal**

I, Allan Kennedy, am excited to announce I have officially signed my nomination paperwork for the upcoming Colchester Municipal Election - District 11. Over the past 25 years, my wife, Judy and I raised our family of four in District 11 and are proud Bible Hill residents.

As a candidate I bring experienced leadership through my work as the first principal of Redcliff Middle school for 21 years; local NSTU president; current Grand Knight for The Knights of Columbus-which supports the community with fresh produce for

the local Food Bank from our local garden as well as 100+ winter coats for children in need; chairperson for the Guatemala Outreach Project; and Vice Chair for Foundation Board for STEPs (Supported Training Employment Programs).

I will share your voice and advocate for our district. I am looking forward to supporting our community and hearing your concerns as we learn and grow together. I will listen and work on your behalf. Please consider a vote for Allan Kennedy as a vote for our community.



Allan Kennedy

**Allan Kennedy, candidate District 11**  
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## Westchester Station Man Faces Multiple Charges

Cumberland County District RCMP has charged a man after his vehicle failed to stop for police. On September 7, an RCMP officer observed a man wanted on an outstanding warrant driving a Ford Focus on Hwy. 6 in Pugwash. As the Focus was travelling west on Hwy. 6 in Shinimicas, another RCMP officer activated their emergency lights in an attempt to conduct a traffic stop; the driver refused to pull over. For public safety reasons, the officer did not pursue the Focus.

Officers followed the vehicle with their emergency lights activated. The driver again failed to stop even though the vehicle's two front tires were disabled. As the Focus turned right off Hwy. 6 toward a more populated area, the man's vehicle, which was travelling at about 20 km/h, was pushed into the ditch by a police vehicle in the interest of public safety. The driver exited the vehicle uninjured and was safely arrested.

At short time later, the Focus was seen travelling on Kolbec Rd. in Oxford and a spike belt was deployed. During the deployment of the spike belt, the vehicle crossed the solid line of the roadway and swerved toward the officer deploying the belt.

Bradley James Barton, 40, of Westchester Station, has been charged with Attempted Murder, Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Drug, Flight from Police, and Driving While Prohibited. Barton was remanded into custody and appeared in court on September 9.

**2024 Victoria Lomond - 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 Victoria Lomond, incumbent candidate for District 10.**



Victoria Lomond

*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?*

**The people of District 10 are it's strongest asset. Residents of District 10 drive everything that happens here, whether it is local businesses, not for profits, community groups etc. The people living in District 10 know what they want to see in their communities and make it happen.**

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

**My role over the last nearly 3 years has been to listen to the concerns that affect the residents of District 10 and bring those topics forward. Understanding what people need is the first part to advocating for them. Public engagement session, and simply being available is the best way to hear the people. I strive for open and transparent communication with the residents of Colchester. I have done my best to be a strong voice for the communities of District 10 and beyond.**

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

**In random order: healthcare, cell service, internet, education including reliable student transportation, rural public transportation, improved road conditions. All 3 levels of government need to work together to improve service delivery and infrastructure.**

*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?*

**The 110km of municipally owned roads should be prioritized in a manner of worst condition based on the frequency and volume of travel. It should also be noted that Colchester should be considered in it's entirety for a priority listing. The municipality can advocate on behalf of the residents for improvements of provincially owned infrastructure.**

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

**A strategic plan of road maintenance should be developed, this is currently being worked on. However, a 5 year plan is not realistic based on the current cost of infrastructure.**

*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?*

**Conversations between all 3 levels of government should be established through the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities addressing roads. Updating and improving road infrastructure is necessary and extremely costly, it should not fall to the residents in Colchester (or any other municipality for that matter) to pay for. I believe the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments require creative and strategic implementation of the current tax base to fulfill this endeavor. Moving forward, road and sidewalk planning with any new development should be required before the government takes them over.**

*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?*

**My short answer is absolutely. I believe everyone should have the ability to age in place when possible or be able to live close to the community in which they chose to live- they certainly should not be moved many communities away based on where a bed is available. However, studies would need to be done to ensure that all of the community considerations and business implications would make the facility optimal and successful. A few questions to highlight are: a) Is there an adequate work force in the area? b) Is there reliable access to physician care? c) What is the expected time of arrival for emergency medical care?**

*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"?*

**Trades are an important part of our workforce. Although education falls under the provinces leadership my personal opinion is that implementing options in the school system to learn basic trade skills is crucial to expose students to the world of trades. Making it easier for businesses to access summer student grant funding in the trades sector would also be beneficial.**

*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?*

**Again, this topic is provincially mandated. Personally, I remember individuals I went to school with who were able to take classes that were similar to what is described in the question, I believe this worked well. I have seen a shift in recent years within the Department of Education to re-introduce programs like this, most currently the "Skilled Trades Pilot Program" that was announced by the province in June 2024. I think it is a very necessary and positive addition. I am anticipating that this program will be highly successful and look forward to studying the outcomes. Younger students would also benefit to having access to courses that support trades.**

*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"?*

**I would be open to further discussion around this idea but cannot commit to a yes or no answer with the information provided. A mechanism like this would need to be clarified from a legal perspective to ensure that it falls within the parameters of the Municipal Government Act. Proving that it is an avenue that could be implemented it would require significant community engagement with the residents of Colchester. Questions to be explored: a) Who would be able to access this funding? (Community groups, businesses, individuals, families? etc) b) What specifically would this funding be applied to? c) What measures would be involved in the application process and final reporting? d) What body would review and award the applications? e) What would trigger release of the funding? Etc. etc.**

**Though it may be an unpopular opinion I believe we are responsible for ourselves as residents to a certain degree for engaging with our communities and all 3 levels of government to access the information that is important to us.**

**The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits**

*Continued from page 17*

**Community Grants to Help Seniors Stay Active, Healthy**

Community groups can now apply for funding to support new projects that help older Nova Scotians stay active and engaged in their communities. The Age-Friendly Communities Grant program opened for applications on September 17. Applications are open until November 1. The program supports organizations like the BOLD Living Learning Centre in Baddeck, which is using the grant it received to offer wellness, social and educational activities for seniors. The centre is also providing opportunities for seniors and youth to connect, share knowledge and enjoy activities together, including knitting, crocheting, glass painting, gardening, playing games, singing and learning computer skills.

Groups eligible to apply include not-for-profit organizations and co-operatives, municipalities, First Nations communities, universities and not-for-profit post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia. Businesses and individuals are not eligible.

The Age-Friendly Communities Grant program provides grants of up to \$25,000 for community-wide efforts to create age-friendly environments and promote healthy aging. Grants are awarded annually; Last year's grants provided more than \$530,000 in funding for 44 community projects across the province. More information on the program, lists of past grant recipients and the application form are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/age-friendly-grant/>

**Almanac Forecast: "Winter With a Heart of Cold"**

There's only one place to start with a new edition of North America's favorite Almanac—the weather! The 2025 Old Farmer's Almanac Canadian Edition predicts below-average snowfall for most of Canada this winter, with exceptions in the middle of the country.

As sure as the Sun rises and seasons change, The Old Farmer's Almanac is back! As has been true in every year since 1792, the newest edition features a healthy dose of wit and wisdom and tried-and-true advice, as well as the Almanac's much-anticipated, traditionally 80 percent-accurate weather forecasts. The 2025 edition of The Old Farmer's Almanac—the original guide to living well—is now available everywhere that books and magazines are sold.

So, how drizzly will the turn of the season be? Autumn begins on September 22, 2024, and as far as rain goes, Canada can expect near- to below-normal precipitation across the Maritimes, southwestern Ontario, southern British Columbia, Yukon, and Northwest Territories. Above-normal precipitation is likely for much of the area for southern Quebec, southeastern Ontario, and the Prairies. Find more details and regional highlights at [Almanac.com/fall!](https://almanac.com/fall/)

## Municipality Opens Service Kiosk at Pugwash Library

In order to serve residents along the north shore, the Municipality of Cumberland has opened a service kiosk in the Pugwash Library building. The service kiosk will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

Provincial senior low income tax rebate forms; Address change forms; Water connect/disconnect (including seasonal properties) and Pick up or drop off development permit applications

The office will offer a variety of services including: Tax and water payments; Tax and water reprint of bills; Low income tax exemption forms;

The concept for a north shore municipal presence a few days per week came from the Clear the Deck report and subsequent All Hands on Deck initiative the municipality has been implementing over the last year.

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