

Director's Report - Solar Colchester/ Cozy Colchester

The following is an overview of activities in the Community Development Department since April 2025, which Paul Smith, Director circulated to council at its August 14 Council meeting. This section focuses on the "Solar Colchester/ Cozy Colchester".

Solar Colchester/ Cozy Colchester

In May, as part of a marketing campaign to promote the Cozy Colchester program, sustainability staff launched the Cozy Colchester Hotdog Booth. After putting out an offer on social media to community

groups for free hotdogs at their events this summer, the booth was rapidly booked for a variety of events from May to September. Staff also dropped the interest rate on Cozy and Solar loans in June from 4.75% to 2.75% to reflect reductions in the prime rate and to encourage program participation.

In June, the Cozy Colchester team was able to secure a battery-electric Volkswagen ID.Buzz from Truro Volkswagen through a low-cost rental/sponsorship agreement. Staff use the groovy bus—

dubbed the "Retrofit Bus"—to transport hotdog booth equipment to events and to advertise the Cozy Colchester program on the road and in the Courthouse parking lot.

The Cozy Colchester Hotdog Booth made an appearance at ten events from May to July, including the Truro Pride Fun Day, Disability Pride Parade, Canada Parks Day, and the 50th anniversary of the Truro Saints Rugby Club.

Upcoming events include the Emancipation Day Family Event at Civic Square on August 1, the QUINZOU Che-nous Acadian celebration at Civic Square on August 16, and a back-to-school event at the Portapique Community Centre on August 30. There are a couple of slots left in September if Council members know of community groups that could use free hotdogs for their events.

This summer campaign focuses on Cozy Colchester because getting heat pumps into homes is a key strategy for improving community resilience to extreme heat. In addition to the scheduled hotdog booth appearances at community events, during August and September the Cozy Colchester team will "pop up" at parks across Colchester on hot days to hand out water and popsicles, promote Cozy Colchester, and educate about extreme heat.



The

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Journal

Tid-Bits

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Housing Plan on Track to Meet or Exceed Goals

Thousands of Nova Scotians will have new homes faster as the Province's five-year housing plan continues to exceed targets.

Since Our Homes, Action for Housing was released two years ago, 14,667 new housing units have been created or are in progress and the conditions have been created to pave the way for another 54,174 housing units for a total of 68,841 – 167 per cent of the 2028 goal.

The plan has also helped make life more affordable for 19,923 households – 115 per cent of the five-year target.

Our Homes, Action for Housing brings partners together to address the gap identified in overall housing supply; grow and sustain affordable housing; and deliver programs people need.

Key achievements from April 1, 2023, to July 31, 2025, include: actions in the plan have already paved the way for 68,841 new units; the target was 41,200 new units; affordability has been improved for 19,923 households; the five-year goal was 17,250 households; housing conditions have been improved for 41,989 households; the five-year goal is 47,900 households; 976 first-time home buyers were supported through the Down Payment Assistance Program, 78 per cent of the five-year goal and the path has been cleared for 4,909 affordable and supportive housing units – 98 per cent of the five-year goal.

Other highlights include: 6,020 Nova Scotians, many of them seniors, were helped through home repair and adaption programs; more than 12,000 households were supported by a rent supplement; 515 new public housing units coming on-line – the largest investment in 30 years – will allow 1,300 people to enjoy new public housing and seven new Nova Scotia Community College student residences will allow 618 more students to access on-campus homes, freeing up housing for others who need it.

The progress report is at: <https://novascotia.ca/action-for-housing/docs/action-for-housing-progress-report-2025-07.pdf>



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