

REES' Pieces

Fairness must be paramount

Location, location, location is the primary requirement in a retail environment. The same rule holds true regarding geography for a community wishing to maximize its market area.

Colchester and Truro are the envy of most areas and all municipalities in the Maritimes, because they serve as the hub of upwards of 1-million people within 90 minutes drive spanning three provinces.

The town and municipality have done well for decades. 80 plus years ago suburb Debert with its armed forces base, CFB Debert was hold to an excess of 3,000 army troops from across Canada awaiting deployment via Halifax to the battlefields of World War II in Europe. Even 80+ years ago Debert was ahead of Halifax in numbers of troops despite, the ocean seaport was home to the largest naval fleet in Canada.

In several other ways the central Colchester region was a leader with many iconic firms showing decades of leadership. Take Stanfield's Ltd as an example. Their "long johns" had a significant role covering bottoms and providing warmth and comfort globally for over a century.

Established 169 years ago in 1856, even before Canada was born, the company was growing rapidly as was its reputation. It began manufacturing its famous "long johns" circa 1920. (See separate side bar story elsewhere).

Even today, with shifts in manufacturing to other countries Stanfield's remains in the forefront of its field. Recently, the family chose to repurpose their Truro facility into an iconic revered multi-building residential complex unequally in Canada, when compared to much larger urban locations like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

Most certainly, it will remain ahead of the pact for a multitude of ambiances and comfort for its residents when compared to any location in Canada. In Atlantic Canada we a knack for doing it right the first time and a long time.

A good example is the tremendous success of the second annual Nova Scotia Stampede held at the NSPE grounds in Bible Hill. The event has quickly become the largest and most popular stampede in Eastern Canada.

However, the stampede may become the focus of much heated discussion, certainly not of its own making. What might become a problem started at Colchester council committee meeting on September 11th when a request from the RECC for funding caught councillor by surprise. The request was late arriving at the municipal office so it did not get distributed to councillors in their meeting package.

Because of late arrival, the items was distributed on table, which left CAO Dan Troke to explain. In his verbal explanation, TROKE very clearly shared with council he first learned of the matter when attending a RECC board meeting a few days earlier.

RECC's request for funding totalled \$150,000 for event funding for the World Under-17 Hockey Championship (\$75,000) later this fall and another \$75,000 for the Nova Scotia Stampede which would be held at NSPE grounds a few days later. Troke indicated even at the RECC meeting budget details were scant. He noted the requested 75,000 was not included in revenue and he elaborated he did not see where the event would be in jeopardy, if funding was not approved. Because of the 50/50 ownership partnership between Truro and Colchester, Truro would have been asked for an equal amount.

In their wisdom council quickly disposed of the matter by referring both event requests to the not-yet-formed Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society (CNSTDS), which is being created in a four-way partnership involving Truro, Stewiacke, Millbrook and Colchester to handle the marketing levy proceeds and where such requests will go in future.

It's a shame The Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society which is not yet finalized and operational will be dealing with a "hot potato" at the outset. Perhaps this matter is a blessing in disguise, in that CNSTDS needs to be aware total fairness needs to be paramount from the beginning.

I mention the issue of fairness constructively, because several leaders, perhaps as many as upwards of 200 are expressing potential concern. They are concerned much larger organizations may apply repeatedly and in essence scoop up a majority of available funds leaving very little for smaller groups scatted throughout the municipality.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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OP-ED

What We Know and What Comes Next

(NOTE: The following is an op-ed from Jill Balser, Minister of Cyber Security and Digital Solutions; Brian Comer, Minister of Addictions and Mental Health; and Brendan Maguire, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.)

Growing up today isn't like it was five, 10, 15 years ago. Thanks to social media, life is both under a microscope and amplified far beyond our local communities.

There's no question, this can affect young people - anyone with kids sees it, and our children and youth are living it, from harmful content and misinformation distorting how youth see themselves and each other to online bullying. Although there are serious challenges, social media can have its upsides too, like connection through shared interests and spaces for self-expression.

We want to assure families across Nova Scotia that our government is a partner in keeping children safe from so-

cial media harms, while maintaining independence and letting families decide how their kids use technology to socialize and access information.

While you handle the home front, we've acted in schools. We have a comprehensive cell-phone directive that restricts access to phones - and by extension, social media - throughout the school day. We have curriculum that teaches students age-appropriate lessons about things like healthy online relationships, privacy, disinformation and ethics. There are also special programs for students and families focused on navigating online life.

Youth and families also now have more safe spaces to access supports and services, build community and connect, like our new Anchor Youth Spaces. And if kids do need mental health support, like all Nova Scotians, they have options that are available at no cost through universal mental health and addictions care. When it comes to young people's mental health, we are

always working closely with the IWK, Nova Scotia Health and other community and private-sector partners to make sure these resources and care options are hitting the mark.

We are supporting young people, their parents and caregivers, while they make the best decisions for them.

This fall, the Nova Scotia Liberal caucus will table the Social Media Responsibility Act - legislation that would make Nova Scotia the first province to prohibit social media use for youth under 16.

What their bill proposes is not possible at the provincial level. It would require federal action. While we strongly support the federal government holding tech giants accountable and building stronger online safeguards, there is no provincial "off" switch to block young people from being online - and if there were, we would want to understand how parents and youth feel before making decisions that affect their lives.

We all want to protect our kids. While a social media ban

may sound good in theory, we're focused on real, practical steps that keep Nova Scotia's young people supported and safe.

NOVA SCOTIA

First Budget 2025-26 Update Released

The Province issued its first public update for Budget 2025-26 today, September 22, and released the public accounts for the 2024-25 fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

Budget 2025-26 Update

The government continues to focus on healthcare spending and affordability measures for families, seniors and the most vulnerable Nova Scotians. Those items, along with investments in hospitals and other healthcare projects, public housing and schools has led the Province to project a deficit of \$1.2 billion for 2025-26. This is up from a projected \$697 million when the budget was tabled in February.

"Nova Scotians told us that fixing healthcare and helping people afford the increased cost of living are important. We promised to help, and that's what we are doing," said John Lohr, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. "Unfortunately, the global economic environment right now is challenging, and Nova Scotia is not immune. We need to continue to strengthen our economy so we can continue to afford the programs and services Nova Scotians rely on."

Public Accounts for 2024-25

The Province reported a surplus of \$264.8 million for the 2024-25 fiscal year, up from the budgeted deficit of \$467.4 million, and received

an unmodified opinion on its financial statements from the auditor general for the 25th consecutive year.

Key things to note include: Nova Scotia's initial \$203-million payment in the settlement of a lawsuit against tobacco companies, received August 29, was recorded in the 2024-25 fiscal year. It was determined the Province must put long-term care facilities on its books as tangible capital assets; this accounting adjustment increased net debt by \$879.9 million in 2024-25 and reduced loans receivable by the same amount.

Quick Facts: 16 departments and other entities required 2024-25 year-end additional appropriations totalling \$668.7 million; in the first quarter of 2025-26, 12 departments and other entities required additional appropriations totalling just more than \$1 billion; of that, \$490 million is associated with the long-term care accounting adjustment. Also today, government entities released reports on compensation of more than \$100,000 for individuals as required by the Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act.

The Province provides budget updates to the public every September, December and as a final forecast with the following year's budget and the final report on the budget is presented through public accounts.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:
Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:
Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:
Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites

NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:
Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:
Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:
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