The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Long Lake Evacuees Returned Home

All remaining residents evacuated because of the Long Lake wildfires in Annapolis County were able to return home Saturday, September 20. Twenty homes were lost due to the wildfire; the Province and County of Annapolis are working together to support impacted families.

For returning residents, power will be restored once people are back in their homes. Waste collection will happen starting at 7 a.m. on Monday, September 22, and Thursday, September 25. More information is available on the County of Annapolis website: **www.annapoliscounty.ca** Residents should remain prepared to evacuate should fire behaviour change.

Public Health Mobile Unit clinics

All Public Health Mobile Unit clinics will offer the following services for those who are eligible: Pneumococcal vaccines; Shingles vaccines; Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccines; Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (Chickenpox) (MMRV) vaccines; Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccines; Tetanus, Diphtheria (TD) vaccines and Respiratory tests (COVID-19 and influenza).

Unless otherwise noted, people are invited to drop in or book appointments for pneumococcal vaccines, shingles vaccines and respiratory tests when mobile unit is in their area. Other routine vaccines are drop-in only.

Book by phone: 1-833-797-7772. Book pneumococcal and shingles vaccines online: novascotia.ca/routinevaccine ; Book a respiratory test online: **covidbooking.nshealth.ca**

Child Death Review Report Released

The Province released the first annual report of the Child Death Review Committee September 19. It provides insight into the causes and circumstances of child and youth deaths and offers recommendations to help prevent future tragedies.

The committee reviewed 911 deaths of Nova Scotians under the age of 25 that occurred between 2009 and 2023. The report identifies key trends and contributing factors, including sudden infant death syndrome, suicide and motor vehicle crashes.

Woods Restrictions Lifted Except in Annapolis County

Restrictions on travel and activities in the woods are lifted in all remaining counties except Annapolis as of 4 p.m. September 18. The change applies to Cumberland, Hants, Lunenburg, Kings, Queens, Shelburne, Digby and Yarmouth counties. Restrictions were lifted in the other nine counties previously.

The restrictions will remain in place in Annapolis County until October 15 – regarded as the end of wildfire season – or until conditions allow them to be lifted.

More Affordable Housing Approved

The Province is investing to build more affordable housing in Dartmouth and removing barriers that would have limited the number of units. The provincial funding will help build 58 affordable units in Richburg LP Management Inc.'s 96-unit project at 22 and 24 Brule St.

Statement on Death of Former Senator Donald Oliver

NOTE: The following is a statement from Premier Tim Houston: "I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Donald H. Oliver, KC (King's counsel), who served his community as a lawyer, educator and senator. A courageous trailblazer, the legacy of service, advocacy and leadership that he leaves behind is remarkable.

As the first Black man appointed to the Senate of Canada, he proudly represented Nova Scotia for over two decades with grace, wisdom and a relentless commitment to inclusion and justice. His work focused on championing issues of diversity, equity, human rights and economic empowerment.

Prior to his appointment to the Senate, he was a key figure in the creation of the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia in 1983. His work helped to ensure that it became a well-respected national institute.

Nova Scotia was lucky to have someone of Mr. Oliver's caliber and integrity representing us on the national stage. My thoughts are with his family, friends and all who are touched by this loss".

continued on page 7

Notes from our Federal Capital - Alana Hirtle, MP

Continued from page 5

Amherst.

All summer long, I met with veterans groups who painted a clear picture: they have amazing ideas, they have the passion to serve their fellow veterans, and they have partners ready to step up. What they need is for government to meet them halfway with some common sense solutions.

That's exactly what this motion addresses. When we have good-faith community partners stepping forward with the ability to turn an underused resource into something that serves veterans and strengthens our community, shouldn't we figure out how to make that partnership work? I absolutely think so.

The response has been incredible. I've continued to have conversations with the Prime Minister's office, Veterans Affairs, the Defence Minister, and fellow MPs. The momentum is building, and I can see a path forward that could make Cumberland County the pilot project for a whole new approach to veterans services across Canada. With permission from the Department of National Defence and the support from OUR COMMUNITY, we could do great things in Amherst.

Your Armoury Update

Speaking of the Ralston Armoury – I've confirmed with the Department of National Defence that they have the engineering and environmental reports that I demanded in July, and they're preparing them for public release. This is the transparency our community deserves, and it's another crucial step toward breathing new life into this historic building. I look forward to sharing this information with the community in the coming weeks.

Veterans Affairs Committee Work

As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, every day I'm reminded of both the challenges our veterans face and the incredible resilience they show. The committee work gives me a front-row seat to the issues that matter most, and it's informing every decision I make about how we can better serve those who served us.

The conversations I had this summer with local veterans groups weren't just listening sessions – they were opportunities to really connect with folks and understand the reality of their struggle with old systems. Everything I heard is now being channeled into my committee work, ensuring that the specific needs of Cumberland-Colchester veterans are part of the national conversation.

Community Celebration

One of the absolute highlights of September was hosting a community chili lunch at the Farmers' Market as part of the Nova Scotia Stampede in Bible Hill. For those who might not know, this is the largest rodeo event in eastern Canada, and let me tell you, the community (and cowboy) spirit was off the charts!

There's something magical about sharing a meal with neighbours while celebrating the agricultural heritage that makes our region so special. Watching families enjoy the day, talking with farmers and ranchers, seeing kids watch these animals with awe. These are the moments that inspire me to use my time in Ottawa to continually push to keep "strong, safe, vibrant communities" at the centre of everything I'm doing.

The connections made over bowls of chili and conversation? That's how real change happens. That's where the best ideas come from. And that's exactly the kind of community energy I'm attempting to bring to Ottawa every single day.

A New Home Base

On the practical side, our Amherst office has officially moved around the corner to 33 Prince Arthur Street. This new location will help us serve you even better, and I encourage anyone with questions, concerns, or ideas to drop by and say "Hi" to Deby. She's in the office and available Monday-Thursday from 10AM-3PM.

Looking Ahead with Optimism

As we head into the heart of the fall parliamentary session, I'm energized by what's possible. The motion I've put forward isn't just and empty exercise in policy for the sake of policy – it's a doorway to real-time solutions for real-world problems. The momentum building around creative partnerships for veterans services could position our community as a leader in innovative approaches to supporting those who served.

Every conversation, every meeting, every bit of preparation this month has been leading to this moment where we can turn summer listening into fall action. The potential I see in Cumberland-Colchester isn't just about what we are today – it's about what we're becoming when we work together.

Your voices are being heard in Ottawa. Your ideas are shaping policy. Your community spirit is making a difference. And I thank you for that.

Alana

Alana Hirtle is the Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester and serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations. Alana has two offices for face-to-face services:

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News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

Continued from page 5

to prepare, serve and clean up 1,170 Big Mac Meal Deals per day? Hopefully, we would have our sight on much more than 1,170 – 15.00 meal packages. Success of the GEO-Park is your oyster.

Tourism isn't the only tool to our economic success, but it's a nice clean industry employing thousands of Nova Scotians

Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

Deadline for the November issue of The Shoreline Journal is October 21.

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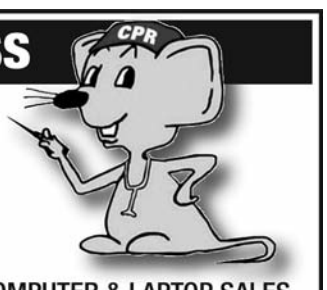

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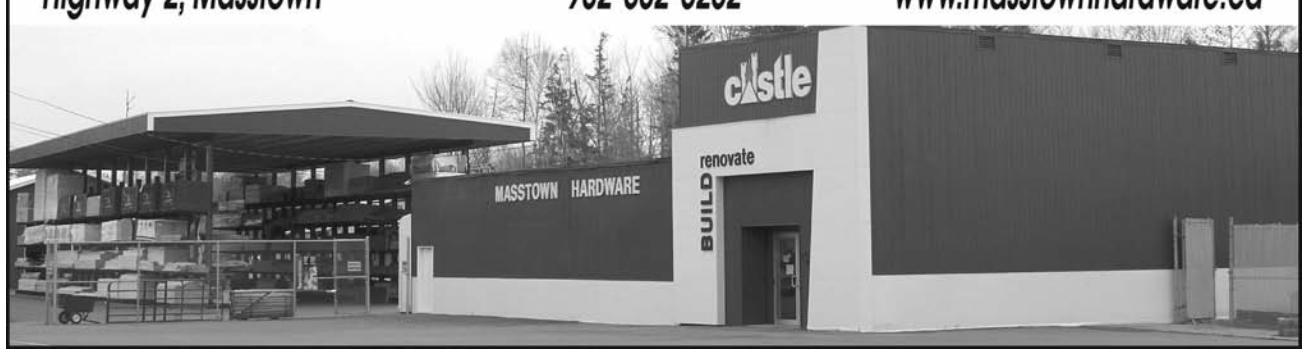
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