

News from our Federal Capital

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duction increase. We have to ensure that we take steps now to have alternative markets for this valuable resource in order to remain competitive supplying emerging markets with their energy needs.

In 2012, Canadian oil was sold at a significant discount compared to the global market price. This was partly due to high inventories and lower than normal prices in the US Midwest. This pipeline would allow eastern refineries to purchase Canadian crude at better prices. No longer would they need to pay higher prices for the foreign product. This would help protect the viability of eastern Canadian refineries, and create an economic advantage which would lead to jobs in our region.

Let's also not forget the hundreds of local suppliers across Atlantic Canada that will benefit from this pipeline construction and refinery renovations. Suppliers and service providers like welders, steel manufacturing, construction, information technology and even locals hotels and restaurants are all impacted by new pipeline construction.

There's also a ripple effect that will ultimately provide financial ben-

efits for all Atlantic Canadians. The revenues generated from natural resources create a healthy stream of tax revenues that allow us fund public services like health, education, and road construction.

As Chair of the Conservative Atlantic Caucus, I have been a strong proponent of the Energy East Pipeline project, and have spoke in favorably from the floor of the House of Commons in May of this year.

Provided environmental approvals are met, our Conservative government will continue to support energy infrastructure that creates jobs and generates economic growth. This project is a huge opportunity for future growth, right here in Atlantic Canada. As Atlantic Canadians we should embrace this opportunity and "grab this growth."

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll - free at 1-888-752-0552; visit my website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong_MP.

Scott Armstrong, MP Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

News from our Provincial Council

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As your MLA, I want to ensure that the model for health care delivery in this province is efficient, effective and sustainable. I want to keep decision making in the hands of our local hospitals to ensure that they are responding to your needs and providing the services you deserve close to home.

One huge cost to the province is in health care administration. With ten District Health Authorities, each with their own CEO and over 90 vice presidents and directors, it is costing our health care system \$19 million to deliver health care to a population in this province of less than one million.

In addition, at the provincial Department of Health we have 10 executive directors, 46 other directors and 38 managers. By any account these dollars could be better spent and our system more lean and efficient if we reduced the number of District Health Authorities, as well as the administration attached to each one. Any savings from this reduction should be redirected to the frontline health care professionals and to reduce wait times for services. That is the position of Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil, and one I support.

I recognize that there are those who oppose this, but I ask you the question, why do we need ten executive leadership teams to manage the

delivery of health care in this province? The Liberal Party's plan is to have one provincial leadership team, working with four regional management areas (similar to the four former regional health board boundaries) to manage that delivery. Having more site based management and local decision making will allow your needs to be heard and appropriate services provided in a more timely and cost efficient manner.

The voice of volunteer community health boards will be strengthened. One provincial board with members from across the province working with one provincial leadership team will allow money saved from reducing administration to go directly into frontline health care. Those savings would be over \$13 million.

The structure for the IWK would remain unchanged. This Health Board manages the delivery of health care to children throughout Atlantic Canada, and it receives funding from the three other provinces.

This decision has required research and consultation with health care providers, union leaders and patients across the province. It is time we put the needs of patients first and this system is designed to do that. As a province we must make a choice and this model of health care delivery is designed to put Nova Scotians first.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North Ph: 902-893-2180

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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The Nova Scotia Exhibition property, land, barns and racetrack is owed by, as a result of Provincial Legislation, a board consisting of I believe 8 members. That board owns and operates the exhibition, and they have the say. The Municipality of Colchester has no say in that, therefore if this group wants to manage the property they need to discuss that with the board.

The reason the Municipality is involved is because approximately 8 months ago that board made a formal request to the Municipality for financial assistance. Council of the day decided that it would not be prudent to provide tax payers money without knowing the true financial situation. Council asked staff to gather this financial information, unfortunately it was not available. Therefore council hired (with approval of the NSPE board) Grant Thornton to complete a financial review. The results of that review were not very encouraging, most of that has been reported. Within days of the NSPE board receiving that review they sent a letter to Council requesting that we take it over in its entirety. Tuesday evening council toured the facilities and later that evening council made the decision to provide some assistance in some way. That information has been sent to the NSPE Board and we are in the process of arranging a meeting for Monday 26 or Tuesday 27 between the Council Executive and their board to discuss the future. Please note that any decisions made will be council decisions, this is just a discussion.

Now the above are all facts.

The remainder will be my observations and opinions only and certainly not those of council. Over the last month I have discussed this with many residents and have been told clearly, do not spend one dollar of our money on this. However I have also talked to prominent agriculture representatives as well as horse owners from West Colchester and they are of a different opinion.

The horse owners tell me that they only want to race horses and the agriculture folks tell me that the exhibition grounds themselves need to

be preserved. I think it is also fair to mention and to recognize that events in and around the exhibition grounds such as, The Provincial Ex, horse racing, horse shows, dog shows, agriculture shows, the antique farm machinery museum, 4H pro show, car shows, Dutch Mason Blues Festival, and blue grass festivals etc. This brings a very significant number of people into this area and as a result is a great revenue generator for the retail business in the Municipality and the Town.

In the Municipality I refer to all those restaurants, hotels, gas stations and shops on Robie Street, Bible Hill and in and around Truro Heights. None of us as residents like to pay taxes, I would like to make sure that all residents are aware that these businesses pay a tremendous amount of taxes and without them the residential rate would be noticeably higher. I say this only to point out that they must be considered in all of this as well.

Having said all of this I believe that an effort must be made to save and grow this facility, however it must be done without any significant amount of tax payer's money being spent. I believe it is important that all be aware that this is not a problem that happened overnight and I do not believe that we can lay the blame at the feet of the current management or board. It is quite clear to me that it has taken time to get to this unfortunate situation and it will take time to solve.

There is no question changes will be required and tough decisions made. In my opinion and that is with very little background it would appear that at times the horse racing folks and the agriculture folks are at odds over what is best. The time has come for that to end. It is my opinion that for this very important piece of our community to survive and reach its potential it will require the cooperation and strong leadership from those that are considered to be leaders in horse racing, agriculture, business, community and elected officials. If this can happen, if everyone can see the big picture, it is my opinion that this community asset could have a long and strong future and benefit many.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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Whatever the decision of Council is I'm sure it will be to the benefit of all the residents of Colchester County. The provincial government has shown an interest in getting involved but as usual they are waiting to see what the Municipality of Colchester is going to do first. We also have a group of local business people with a back ground in harness racing who has stepped up to the plate on this one and are willing to get involved in turning this situation around. We'll have to wait and see what the outcome is on this one.

Summer is not over yet, my family and I have attended some great festivals and community get-togethers this year and they are not over yet by

a long shot. I know that this issue won't be out till after Harvest for Hunger Nova Scotia has their annual Incredible Picnic at Captain Cob's Crazy Corn Conundrum and Corn Maze. This picnic is sponsored by Select Nova Scotia and in conjunction with Harvest for Hunger last year, raised over \$16,000. The money goes to Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of Canadian churches and church based agencies working to end global hunger. Projects like this would not be possible if it wasn't for the support of so many volunteers and generous business people in this great County, so many of us are fortunate to call home.

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

I heard it at the Company Store

By Wendy Cox

Do you know what I heard? I heard that this reporter is not very computer literate. I guess I emailed last year's August article to Maurice last month. A big OOPS on my part, sorry for any inconvenience to anyone this may have caused. I will try to be more careful.

In my actual 2013 August article I was going to report on the 4H open house achievement day, a fireman's dance, a 4 wheeler rally and a few other things. This month I can report that the blueberries are ripe and being harvested by machine, people, bear and deer. I did hear some interesting ways to keep the deer out of your blueberries, Roger tells me that you need to hang bars of Irish Spring soap around the fields in the trees and Bert says that you need to get wolf urine sprayed around, my question is how do you get that wolf urine in the first place?

There is an ATV poker rally Sept. 7 starting at the Economy Rec. Center. Registration is \$25 and includes supper.

The Blenkhorne ATV rally starting on the Silica Road is on Saturday Sept. 14, always an excellent time.

The Annual Umbrella Relay Walk is Sept. 21st anyone wanting to sponsor or participate can contact Darlene Smith or Carol Dibbon.

The Bo Lattie Memorial 4 on 4 Ball Hockey Tournament will be held in Five Islands on Oct. 5th. There is a range of different age groups for teams. For more info call Robert or Debbie 254-2295.

All the kiddies are excited to be returning to school in September. Best of luck to all those new students and all the university students heading away from home. Please drive safe and watch out for the little ones on their way to school. Enjoy the fall weather and always play safe and enjoy life.

My Marigold!

Michael Kaeshammer Trio

JAZZ GIANT! September 11



JP Cormier
Maritime master of the strings!
September 20



Doc MacLean & Libby Rae Watson
DELTA BLUES
September 21



Anastasia
Pianistic wunderkind!
September 24



Blanchford/Walsh
Maritimes to England Tour
County with a dash of virtuoso banjo!
September 25



Cheryl Gaudet
A home grown folk/rocker!
September 27

In the Marigold Gallery
featuring Jen Power
“Colour Lust”
Meet the artist! Sept. 11, 6:30 pm

MARIGOLD CULTURAL CENTRE

Visit www.marigoldcentre.ca or call 897-4004

605 Prince St., Truro
\$2 Theatre Betterment charge applies on all ticket sales. Additional fees apply to online purchases.
The Cobequid Arts Council, operator of the Marigold Cultural Centre, is a not-for-profit Society serving our community.