

PAGE BRIEFS

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“Ladies Day Extravaganza” a fund raiser in support of the Cobequid Interpretive Centre will be held September 10th at the Economy Recreation Centre from 10 am – 3 pm. Over 4 vendors. Product Categories include Hair Products, Make-up, Fashion, Jewellery & Accessories, Hand Bags, Health & Fitness, Wine, Beer & Spirits Tasting, Kitchen Accessories, Cooking, Cleaning, Tarot Cards & Readings etc.

Applications will be taken until Aug. 31 at midnight for antlerless deer hunting stamps for this fall’s hunting season. There are 6,200 stamps available. Qualified hunters can apply online, *continued on page 7*

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News from our Federal Capital

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a national pharmacare program with several panels of witnesses. Parliament will also consider Bill C-12, which will improve access to benefits for veterans injured in the line of duty.

In the riding, we will be launching a Youth Council, to which any constituent aged 15-24 may apply. I am really interested to

hear what younger people have to say, particularly because our town halls tend to draw a more seasoned crowd. More details will be released when the platform is finalized this fall.

So there is lots to look forward to. I hope you have had a good summer, and as always, do not hesitate to get in touch with me if I can be of assistance.

Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester

News from our Provincial Capital

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Conditions in some regions of our province were the driest in 15 years, we could not afford to take a chance. These restrictions also applied to forestry and other commercial activities on Crown Land. The forest industry recognized that the situation in our province required the cooperation of everyone who uses our forests.

Wild fires were reported in Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County, Greenfield, Queens County, 7 Mile Lake, Annapolis County, 10 Mile Lake, Queens County, Perch Lake, Pictou County and a small fire in Collingwood, Cumberland County. To date all fires have been contained. As we see in our local fire departments, mutual aid is critical and effective. On a larger scale, resources including fire bombers and firefighters from Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland came on site to share their expertise and to assist.

As the MLA for Colchester North, a resident of rural Nova Scotia and a small woodlot owner, I sincerely thank all crews and volunteers who worked around the clock to fight fires and to

support the firefighters. One example of ordinary people doing extraordinary things is the 12 year old girl from Bridgewater who received \$100 for her birthday. She in turn wanted to purchase \$100 of bottled water and to send it to firefighters on the front line. However, before she sent it she took the time to mark on the bottle cap a big THANK YOU. This story brought tears to the eyes of some of the firefighters and prompted Premier Stephen McNeil, who was visiting the front line and who heard this story, to give this young girl a personal call to thank her for her kindness.

Many employers gave their firefighters time off from work and many local restaurants closed their doors and devoted all of their time to prepare food for the firefighters. These acts of kindness and volunteerism are the things that make our province and our people so special. We all share in thanking you and I know folks in Colchester North would step up to the plate in similar circumstances.

Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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would like to say that I asked and received Maurice’s permission in advance.

It has been almost eight years since I first asked for your support as your Municipal Councillor. I would like to speak about how much I have benefited from this opportunity.

Having always been interested and involved in politics, I decided to offer for councillor. My main concern was there seemed to be a lack of cooperation between the Town and the Municipality and how much could be accomplished if they would work together. It is kind of ironic this seems to be a theme for this election, only it’s now called Regional Cooperation. I was a bit off base back then as it soon became apparent there had been significant cooperation for years. I have spoken on this many times Solid Waste Management, waste water etc are great examples. It soon became apparent to me if you wished to become sort of deeply involved in all aspects of Municipal Government you would gain an incredible education and have a great experience.

People often say “I wouldn’t want to take those calls and deal with everyone’s problems”. Well the fact is those calls are not bad at all. 99.9 % of the people are very nice, very understanding and, for the most part, just asking someone to help solve a problem. All they really want is to do your best. I have made many new friends as a result.

The real point I wish to make is the education I have gained since first being elected as a green or new councillor. First, I was quickly accepted and mentored by many experienced members of council. They welcomed my input and cut me a little slack when I made mistakes which I quickly learned from and I believe they came to respect my opinion as I have theirs. Over time many opportunities to learn and be involved have come my way. After the last election I was given the opportunity to be a member of the executive committee of this council, which I consider a great accomplishment and possibly put me in a position to better represent my constituents.

Over the past two years I have been fortunate to have been elected to represent Nova Scotia on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which clearly benefits our council and Municipality to have a seat at that national table. Most recently I have been asked to serve on a Federal Municipal Energy Task force and to be Vice Chair of the FCM Standing Committee on Social Economic Development.

All these things have been an honor for me and a tremendous learning experience. I believe I have come a long way since first being elected eight years ago and I would like to thank you very much for that opportunity.

Clearly I wish for the opportunity to continue, but the future will decide that. Tom

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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bicides over large tracks of land.

Northern Pulp has several applications before the Nova Scotia Department of Environment to spray 1,314 hectares of woodland in Colchester and Halifax counties with Vision Max which is a herbicide containing 49% glyphosate as its active ingredient. A large part of the 1,314 hectares is in the Debert and Belmont mountain area. The World Health Organization’s cancer agency has declared glyphosate a probable human carcinogen. Here we are in Nova Scotia with one of the highest levels of cancer per capita in Canada and we are allowing Northern Pulp to spray a carcinogen. The spray program is schedule to begin August 25th and run into early October. Archery and muzzleloader seasons for white tail deer begin on September 12th. I would strongly suggest anyone planning to hunt deer during this time in the Belmont or Debert mountain area to check with the Department of Environment on where exactly in these areas they will be permitting spraying to take place.

There are seven European Union countries which have imposed extensive prohibitions on the use of glyphosate and four are considering total bans. The forestry industry will argue it is safe to use in the agriculture industry so why wouldn’t it be safe to apply in their industry? The answer to this question is very simple. The agriculture industry applies the herbicide under strict controlled conditions. A farmer would spray a field which is very unlikely to have any wildlife in contact with the foliage in the next few days. The glyphosate as a residue dissipates over a couple of days so it doesn’t stay around long enough to be part of the food chain. Unlike an agricultural field there are no safe guards in place for our wildlife in the forest when a spray plane buzzes a clear cut covering everything below with a possible cancer causing chemical.

There are meetings scheduled with the Minister of Environment Margaret Miller so let’s hope common sense prevails and we can put a stop to this before we do even more damage to our forest and our wildlife. I’ll keep you posted!

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County



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