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# The Shoreline Journal

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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# Broadband Agreement Signed

By **Maurice Rees**

The Municipalities of Colchester and Cumberland Counties have entered the history books as the first units in Canada to sign a joint agreement to bring high speed broadband to all residents and businesses to the two municipalities simultaneously. A \$60.1-Million project which has been in the works for approximately two

years following an initial meeting held in Masstown.

The initial exploratory meeting, organized by The Shoreline Journal, publisher Maurice Rees and MP, Bill Casey's office, brought together Cumberland and Colchester municipal officials, MLA Karen Casey, then MP, Bill Casey and representatives from Develop Nova Scotia to discuss the

concept of a two county wide proposal idea proposed by representatives from Xplornet.

The two county collaboration agreement was fully executed on Friday, August 21st and was immediately followed by a signing ceremony with Xplornet Communications Inc to provide a fully executed rural broadband agreement that includes an Indefeasible Right of Use contract for strands of optic fibre.

The contracts will be public upon request but will have some redaction for proprietary information to which the extent will be determined with Xplornet and Develop Nova Scotia next week.

Unfortunately, photos of the history making Canada-wide event, valued at \$60.2-Million and the largest or near the largest of its type in Canada and involving two adjoining municipal units are not available. Municipal officials determined the signing was an internal administrative function and not a public or media event. Signatures of one staff lead from each municipality, and representatives from the municipalities and Xplornet officials were the only ones to sign.

Cumberland county councillors, acting on a staff recommendation, approved two motions in a public meeting on August 19th that approved Cumberland's participation in the joint internet agreement with Xplornet authorizing the Warden and CAO to proceed. A second motion authorized the Warden and CAO to proceed with the project providing Colchester approved and wished to proceed with the same agreement.

Colchester council held a special "in-camera" meeting on August 20th, which reportedly would be dealing with the same subject matter. Details of the meeting's results were not available at press-time, but the overall project was expected to meet council's approval. It can now be confirmed Colchester's August 20th "in-camera" generated the same approvals that Cumberland achieved the previous day.

Although not confirmed by municipal representatives, the purpose of the August

*continued on page 3*

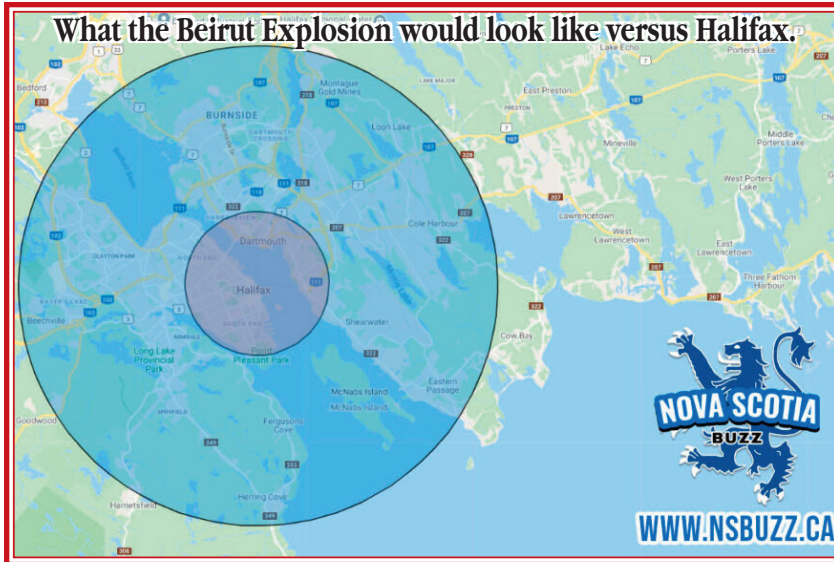
## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS September 2020

Nova Scotia's borders are not closed, but so everyone understands the process and what happens, the Shoreline Journal reached out to government officials. We received the following response from Marla MacInnes, communications officer. Anyone arriving in Nova Scotia from outside Atlantic Canada must self-isolate for 14 days to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Provincial staff are present at the land border, airports, and ferries to advise travelers from outside Atlantic Canada of self-isolation requirements. As well, travelers from outside Atlantic Canada are expected to complete a tracking form (available at <https://travel-declaration.novascotia.ca/en>). The Province is calling visitors entering Nova Scotia from outside Atlantic Canada to ensure visitors are self-isolating.

The girders on the new Lower Debert Bridge are now in place. Work is on schedule for completion by October 31st, 2020. Closure of Hwy 4 has caused problems for local businesses with lack of thru-traffic. Some motorists, not familiar with the area, have had to retrace their driving as the road is closed between Exits #13 and #14 if they wanted to get back onto Hwy #2 to get to Bass River or other communities, before reaching Parrsboro.

Either as our CoVid-19 concerns subside or we get more comfortable with social distancing and wearing masks, the Bass River Baptist Church is resuming Sunday services, and a resumption of their monthly advertisement. Rev Larry Tirrell will lead the services at 11 am on Sundays. He can be reached at the church at 902-647-2567 or at home 902-843-5941.

Colchester County District RCMP is investigating a fatal motorcycle collision that occurred August 10th. At approximately 2:45 p.m., Colchester County District RCMP, EHS and Fire responded to a report of a motorcycle collision on Hwy. 311 where the motorcycle went off the road and struck a pole. The driver, a 61-year-old was pronounced deceased at the scene. An RCMP Collision Analyst attended, and the highway was closed for several hours.



The above graph shows the extent of damage if the recent Beirut Explosion were to occur in Halifax. The smaller inner circle, 3 KM red zone, would have devastated much of all peninsular Halifax all the way to the Northwest Arm. The north end of Halifax and Dartmouth would be heavily damaged. South end Halifax and downtown Dartmouth would have been heavily damaged. In the larger circle, 10 KM blue zone damage would have been report as far away as Spryfield, Herring Cove, Clayton Park, Beechville, Burnside, Cole Harbour and Eastern Passage. Both Nova Scotia 911 Emergency Communication Centers and RCMP Leadership HQ would be in the 3 KM circle of destruction according to the proposed RCMP plan to relocate the communications centre from Truro. (Submitted)

## If Halifax was Beirut

Submitted by **Bill Casey**

NSBUZZ.ca has published an interesting map which indicates the area that would be devastated by an explosion in Halifax Regional Municipality similar to the Beirut explosion.

Within that circle of devastation, 3 KM, as shown in the adjacent graphic, is one of the Nova Scotia 911 Emergency Call Centers and also the RCMP Headquarters for the Province of Nova Scotia. Both would be lost in such an event.

The other 911 Emergency Communication center for Nova Scotia is now located a safe 100 kilometers away in Truro.

The new RCMP plan is to move the Truro 911 Emergency Communication Center from Truro into that 3 KM circle of destruction near the other 911 Emergency Communication Center which is already there.

In the event of a disaster in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia will lose both 911 Emergency Communication Centers and the RCMP Headquarters at the same time.

**Why would anyone do that?**

All leading authorities in emergency communications rate "geographic separation" as the primary requirement for a safe emergency communication system. Nova Scotia has that "geographic separation" now but the RCMP are eliminating it in a giant step backwards.

This proposal puts all Nova Scotians at

unnecessary risk and should be reversed.

One catastrophic event in Dartmouth will render the entire province without 911 emergency service and RCMP emergency leadership.

**Former MP, Bill Casey continues to fight relocation of the Truro Communication Center to HRM. Casey can be reached at 902 397 1305.**

# Goal: #1 GeoPark

By **Maurice Rees**

The hard work will start soon to make the Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark the "#1 GeoPark in the World". In summer 2019, when two UNSECO evaluators travelled to Nova Scotia, they spoke very highly about the area and suggested it had the potential to be #1.

UNESCO was expected to announce the new GeoPark in March, but the CoVid-19 pandemic delayed the announcement until July. Even with social distancing and wearing masks, a ceremony to celebrate the Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark announcement was held at the Five Islands Lighthouse Park on Wednesday, August 5th.

The idea of a GeoPark was originally suggested about 10 years ago by Dr John Calder, Senior Geologist in NS, but has

**See photos on pages 12 and 13**

since retired and is now serving as president of the Canadian segment of the UNESCO Geopark Global Network. He expanded his thoughts to include staff at Fundy Geological Museum, staff and other interested citizens in Parrsboro area.

Over the years, the interest increased to include volunteers, community groups. As the process progressed, the Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester became involved and added critical mass with Cumberland's District 10 councillor, Don Fletcher serving as chair and Colchester's Mayor Christine Blair as vice-Chair.

The announcement as one of five Geoparks

*continued on page 10*



Devin Trefry, Rob Simmons, CAO Colchester County and John Calder, who initially formulated the initiative for the GeoPark, observe social distancing at the GeoPark announcement ceremonies. The story begins here on page 1 and continues on page 10 with more photos on page 12 and 13. (Rees Photo)

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