

## Increased Interest In Election

By Maurice Rees

There appears to be an increased interest in Colchester's October 17th municipal election. Two seats, District 2 and 8 will be vacant with long serving councillors Bill Masters and Ron Cavanaugh not reoffering.

Those thinking about offering for a council seat must file papers between Thursday, August 7th and up until 5:00 pm on September 8th. Some time ago Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) changed the rules which eliminated 1/3 of the annual earlier stipend from being "tax-free" to all monies paid to councillors must be taxable. The ruling would result in a drop in "take-home" pay for councillors unless salary levels were adjusted.

To solve the problem, council hired a consultant, at a cost of approximately \$10,000, but did not like the results. As a result they asked Scott Fraser, Director of Services, to determine an appropriate amount. Fraser suggested the councillors rate should increase from \$25,006 to \$31,423; Deputy Mayor from \$30,596 to \$36,451 and mayor from \$49,060 to \$61,651. This would provide each council member with the same "take-home" pay as existed prior to CRA changes.

Normally councils are asked to make any adjustments in their pay scales during their current term in office, and to have any adjustments to pay outlined before the next municipal election, which will be in 2024.

The Shoreline Journal tried, because nominations for council positions will not be received until tomorrow



Lisa Patton

row (August 27th), the county's returning officer could not reveal the names or how many people had taken out nominations papers, until filings were completed.

So far, only Lisa Patton has informed the Shoreline Journal she expects to file papers for District 8 to replace retiring councillor Ron Cavanaugh, who was first elected in 1988. Patton is the daughter of late Ed Lorraine, and also a driving force for the 4-H movement in Colchester and province-wide.

In talking with other councillors, and various sources when nominations close 5:00 pm on September 8th, it appears as many as eleven people have confirmed meetings to officially file their papers.

Late Friday, August 21st, another source suggested as many as half of the 11 council seats may have candidates. If that suggestion follows through several incumbent councillors will have competition. It is not known how many people will vie to be replacement for the two retiring councillors.

See other election stories on page 3 and 9.

## Family Home Destroyed by Fire

By Linda Harrington

Lauren Rushton and her family were still in shock a day after an early evening fire on August 7th completely destroyed their family home, leaving them literally with only the clothing on their backs.

The house on Staples Brook Rd., Belmont sat in wooded area off the road and the fire was fully engaged before neighbours saw the flames and called 911. Three brigades, with one on stand by, answered the mutual aid call but there was nothing they could do to save the structure.

Lauren says she and her husband were at work and thankfully her son Lucas and their dog Max were across the road at her parent's house. She is sad to lose all the family keepsakes and photographs but is grateful no one was injured. "I feel especially sad for my son Lucas who had a special collection of Elvis items, several given to him by entertainer Thane Dunn.

My husband also had an original military photograph of his grandfather so things like that are difficult to lose but the rest is just wood and things."

Lauren says they have insurance and will rebuild on the same location, which is family land. They also lost a vehicle in the fire. A couple of fund raisers including a 50/50 draw and a Go Fund Me page (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rushton-family-house-fire>) were set up to help the family with immediate expenses.

The family would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support, with a huge thank you going out to the volunteers of the Debert, North River and Onslow Belmont Fire Brigades.

See photos on page 12.



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## Kohltech Designs Glass Barrier

By Maurice Rees

Protection of frontline workers in retail stores, restaurants, and any place the public is served has taken on an entirely new meaning. As many businesses across Canada scrambled to re-open, Kohltech came to the rescue to develop a protective shield following a call from the Yarmouth area. Kohltech Windows & Entrance Systems is one of Canada's largest window and door manufacturers, with its head office in Debert, Nova Scotia and manufacturing plants in Debert, North Bay, and Edmonton. They started by developing two prototypes and shipped them to the Yarmouth location within 48 hours. The designs became an instant hit and soon production began.

During the early days of CoVid-19 inquiries for orders of window and entrance systems grew to an immediate halt. Like many business owners, there was concern about this years market demand and production capability. However by mid-August sales had rebounded to the point the company's regular window and door demand had rebounded to the point the company was having trouble keeping up with demand. Shield inquiries were still coming in and production levels were within the company's expected timeframes.

Owners Carl Ballard and Kevin Pelley immediately recognized they had the design capability and production capacity to help businesses meet

new regulations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For almost 40 years, Kohltech has been innovating and manufacturing windows and doors for commercial and residential buildings. They were already inventorying large quantities of safety glass and were able to quickly pivot to develop a slim frame that houses a single pane of tempered safety glass and a mounting bracket to affix it to countertops, walls and other surfaces. The system also has applications to be a protective divider in conference rooms and boardrooms as shown.

"We knew we could create a solution that is easy to maintain and provide a professional look," said Kevin Pelley, CEO of



Kevin Pelley, CEO of Nova Scotia based Kohltech Windows & Entrance Systems stands with a prototype of the Kohltech Shield during production trials in early May. (Submitted)



A Kohltech employee provides a backdrop to Prototype 1, quickly developed earlier this spring to help businesses provide the protection, which would help them re-open. (Submitted)

Kohltech. "It started with trying to help our retail dealers for their own counters and has evolved into a product our dealers want to offer to other businesses in their community."

The glass and PVC frame in the Kohltech Shield is quick and easy to clean and disinfect compared to other products that easily scratch and deteriorate with alcohol disinfectants commonly used in sanitation practices.

While regulations vary by province, governments have stated that in areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained, businesses should consider a barrier. This includes restaurants, hair salons and retail stores. Kohltech has started supplying Shields to

building supply stores, other retailers and restaurants from Nova Scotia to Ontario.

Not only were businesses clamouring to re-open looking for a quality protective system, but new businesses, such as the newly opened Masstown Pharmacy chose the Kohltech glass barrier. The installation of the shield is also shown in the Masstown Pharmacy, which held its official opening on Saturday, August 8th.

Kohltech Shields are available at any of Kohltech's 480 dealers across Canada and in the North Eastern United States. Most recently production has increased to approximately 300 shields per week.

Kohltech is certified to ISO 9001 and their products continue to be a benchmark for quality, performance, and value in the window and door industry.



Many local businesses, including Fletcher's Restaurant, Truro have chosen the Kohltech slimline protective shields assisting them to reopen and protect customers and staff. (Submitted)



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