

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## Portapique Community Build Up + Project

A new fund for the Portapique Community Build Up + Project has been established by the organizing committee. The new fund is still through the Community Foundation. Interested parties are asked to use this link: <https://cfns-fcne.ca/portapiquecommunitybuildup/>

If you have any questions or require more information contact: Alana Hirtle at Tel: 902.895.6625

## Gender-Affirming Surgery Barriers Reduced

Starting July 20, the Province is removing barriers and cutting wait times for Nova Scotians seeking gender-affirming surgery. Gender-affirming surgery helps people's physical appearance align with their gender identity.

Previously, surgery applications had to include a letter of support from a Nova Scotia specialist and a letter from a specialist confirming post-operative care if the surgery was happening in Nova Scotia. Now, those letters are no longer required. This will significantly reduce wait times because it can take between six and 18 months to see a specialist, which more than doubled patients' wait times.

A letter from a physician or nurse practitioner confirming post-operative care is still required if the surgery is happening outside Nova Scotia.

Another benefit for patients is the addition of healthcare providers who can provide a psychosocial assessment letter, which is still required with a surgery application. Now, physicians, nurse practitioners and specialists who have specific skills in gender-affirming care can complete the assessment, provide the letter and sign the application. This change will also help reduce wait times because people previously had to find and wait for mental health clinicians specifically trained in gender-affirming care to complete the process.

## Arrested for possession of stolen property

On July 20, 2022, at approximately 1 a.m., Pictou County District RCMP completed a roadside stop of a minivan that was travelling on Mount William Rd. in Mount William. During the stop, RCMP officers learned that the driver of the vehicle, a 45-year-old man from Moncton, was in possession of stolen property. The man was arrested safely and the stolen property, valued above \$10,000, was seized.

At the time of his arrest, the man was also found in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine.

The man, who had 22 arrest warrants outstanding out of the Province of New Brunswick, was remanded in custody. He appeared in Pictou Provincial Court on August 11 to face charges of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime and Possession of a Schedule I Substance.

## Transition Trust Approves Four More Projects

Four more projects, totaling \$6.2 million, have been approved by the trustees of the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust. The funding includes: Research Nova Scotia will receive \$4.1 million to support the implementation of the 2021 research agenda Bringing Focus to Forestry Research, developed for the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust; Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia will receive \$1.1 million to support a tree improvement program; the Verschuren Centre for Sustainability in Energy and the Environment will receive \$698,500 for Phase 2 of its Bio-technology Acceleration Centre and MTC Mass Timber Company Inc. will receive \$325,000 for feasibility testing for commercial production of mass timber in the province. To date, the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust has committed more than \$25 million of the \$50-million fund. The fund may be used by companies, organizations or post-secondary institutions working and researching in the forestry and biological resources sectors, and by forestry workers to access funding for training. The three trustees review the submissions and make spending decisions.

There are now 13 approved projects under the Trust; it will remain open for new applications until March 31, 2025, or until funds have been spent. More information about the Nova Scotia Forestry Innovation Transition Trust: <https://novascotia.ca/forestry-trust/>

*continued on page 7*

## News from our Federal Capital Continued from page 5

community.

Another celebration I attended was the Acadian Street Party held by the Centre Communautaire Francophone de Truro. This party was held on Prince Street, between the Blunt Bartender and the Marigold Cultural Centre. It was a celebration of the cultural vitality and enduring heritage of the Acadian people in Nova Scotia.

I also had the privilege of hosting / meeting with a few of my federal colleagues: MP Rick Perkins, MP Clifford Small, and MP John Barlow. We had a meeting with the owners of the Masstown Market, Laurie and Eric Jennings. This family-owned business has become a local landmark in our community and is well known for its great quality and selection of food. We later met with the CEO of Oxford Frozen Foods, John Bragg, to discuss honeybees, blueberries, and agriculture. At the end of the day, my colleagues and I

visited Amherst to participate in a roundtable with Nova Scotia dairy, chicken, and egg farmers.

By the end of the month, I attended the Air Show Atlantic in Debert. I was impressed by the large turnout. There was a wide array of aircrafts, that included: CF-18s flown by the Royal Canadian Air Force Demo team and Skyhawks flown by the Canadian Forces Parachute Team. Overall, it was an entertaining day.

It has been such a pleasure to tour our communities this past summer. After speaking to so many of you about your federal concerns, I will raise these issues in Parliament when it comes back into session on September 19th. In the meantime, if you would like me to attend an event, or if you would like to share your thoughts on federal issues, please contact my office at [stephen.elis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.elis@parl.gc.ca).

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2683, or E-mail: [stephen.elis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.elis@parl.gc.ca)**

## News from our Provincial Council

### Continued from page 5

and diesel. So as a Province we are doing our part with respect to electricity. When are the Feds going to look at the transportation industry? Why do we continue to see trucks running back and forth to Upper Canada and United States by the hundreds? Whatever happened to trains! Surely there would be a reduction in the use of diesel as well as wear on our roads.

Finally on the Carbon Tax. There is no question it disproportionately impacts Rural Nova Scotia. We must travel longer distances to work or doctor's appointments. We do not have the opportunity to just hop on a bus, which is heavily subsidized by the Federal

## News from our Provincial Capital

### Continued from page 5

#### Scotia Pool Community ACCESS-Ability

Recently, I had the pleasure of stopping by Scotia Pool in the Village of Bible Hill to meet with the pool's board chair, Dwight Giddens & Lifeguard/Safety Coordinator, Emma Connolly.

Through the province's Community ACCESS-Ability Program, they were able to pave the parking lot which includes additional accessible parking spaces for their community members.

#### Summer Fun in Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River:

2nd Annual Acadian Day Festival in Downtown Truro

A huge thank you to the Town of Truro and the francophone community for organizing and hosting the second annual Acadian Day celebrations for National Acadian Day.

Acadian Day is a great opportunity not only to celebrate, but to share aspects of Acadian culture with the broader community and

Government and carbon tax revenue. The narrative that the Government collects the tax and then returns it to the people is for me a bit of a head scratcher. Do we honestly believe that if they send out checks that they are going to send them to those identified as having paid a higher portion because of where they have chosen to live, or will it be across the board, and will a portion of the carbon tax we pay end up being returned to those in the cities?

Enjoy what's left of the summer.

**Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North can be reached at: [tom.taggartmla@gmail.com](mailto:tom.taggartmla@gmail.com) or (0) - 902-641-2335**

to learn more about the history that makes our province so special and so unique. Thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers who helped to make this event possible.

#### 22nd Annual Millbrook Powwow

It was an honor to attend the Millbrook Powwow this year. The weekend was packed full of entertainment, performances and competitions which were truly awe inspiring.

There is an immense amount of talent in Millbrook and other First Nations' communities across our province and it was a privilege to be a part of such a rich cultural experience.

**As always, I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunity to be your MLA. If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please have them call or e-mail my Constituency Assistant, Jill, to be added to the list of subscribers. We can be reached by phone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at [milaritcey@bellaliant.com](mailto:milaritcey@bellaliant.com).**

## Community Development Report to Council

### Continued from page 1

anticipated the PAC will make recommendations to Council on any changes at the end of October or November of 2022.

#### Planning Advisory Committee:

The Central Colchester PAC met in June to discuss a rezoning application by Justin Groleau for a property in Salmon River as well as an introductory presentation on the Municipality's Wind Turbine Development Bylaw. The Committee recommended for the approval of the rezoning application and agreed to the community engagement program proposed by staff for the Bylaw review.

#### Staffing:

Pam Macintosh has been appointed Manager of Planning Services position and recruitment efforts are underway to fill the Planner vacancy, the position she formerly held.

A summer student started in May to assist with the high volume of inquiries and permit applications in Community Development. Alex Marshall will complete her term in late August.

#### Sustainable Colchester

Staff received notice that the Municipality's application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for solar panels at municipal facilities and arenas received provincial ap-

proval. The federal portion of the application requires additional steps and research and will be submitted in the next couple months. If the application is successful, the ICIP would fund 73% of the \$2 million project.

Following a Council decision to approve funding for electric vehicle charging stations in June, staff issued a Request for Proposals to find a qualified supplier and contractor to complete the project. The tender closes at the end of July and the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of October, 2022. As per Council's request, staff revisited the original proposed locations of the charging stations. The final locations selected are: 1) Municipal courthouse, 2) Tatamagouche Creamery Square, 3) Fundy Discovery Site, 4) Five Islands Lightouse Park, 5) Debert (moved from Dieppe Ave to Acadia Ave), and 6) Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex.

Staff are working with Waste Reduction to develop a youth volunteer program to advance the Community Energy & Emissions Plan, with a focus on community outreach and education about climate action topics. The program will have two streams, waste reduction/diversion and general climate action, and is benefitting from funding (\$15,000) and support from ICLEI's Agents of Change program. Both pro-

grams will begin recruitment in September and aim to launch volunteer training and activities in late October/early November.

Sustainability staff held a well-attended electric vehicle test-drive event at the Fundy Discovery Site in June in partnership with the Clean Foundation's Next Ride initiative. Another is being planned for late summer.

#### Solar Colchester / Cozy Colchester

The Solar Colchester & Cozy Colchester programs are still paused to new applicants and the next round of projects will proceed in August and September following the first loan disbursement from FCM on August 3. Staff continue to research and discuss upcoming changes to the program for its public reopening later this year or early in 2023.

#### Inspection Services Building Inspection

The total construction value from January 1st until June 30th, 2022, was \$47,216,118 compared to the same time last year at \$38,810,824. The same time frame for 2020 was \$18,674,844. The total number of single-family dwellings from January 1st until June 30th was 96 for 2022. Comparatively, the number of single-family dwellings for the same period in 2021 was 68 single family-dwellings and 36 single family dwellings in 2020.

*continued on page 7*

# Masstown Hardware



Your Trusted Building Supply Dealer

Highway 2, Masstown

902-662-3262

[www.masstownhardware.ca](http://www.masstownhardware.ca)



# Guardian

## Masstown Pharmacy

10655 Highway #2, Masstown

Call or text us at **902-603-1010**

We offer a wide range of health and wellness services including:

- Pharmacist Prescribing
- Immunization and Injection Services • Easy Prescription Transfers
- Blister Packaging • Medication Reviews

"We carry a wide variety of over-the-counter items!"

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
Monday to Friday  
from 9:30am to 5:30pm