

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Chamber seeks national support

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce is seeking support from the national Chamber network to protect vital trade infrastructure on the Chignecto Isthmus. In early June, the Truro Chamber submitted recommendations to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for federal government action that will be presented to more than 400 chambers across Canada in October to seek the national organization's endorsement for support.

"Our Chamber, and its supporters across Atlantic Canada, is firm in its position that securing this trade corridor is an absolute priority and government at all levels must immediately put an action plan in place to address it," said Chamber President Eric Tanton.

The policy position, and its recommendations, has already received an endorsement by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Policy Committee.

Success for Nature and Nature Lovers

At a community celebration in Sherbrooke on August 12th, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust announced three more outstanding conservation gems poised for protection on the beautiful St. Mary's River. The lands are home to spectacular old growth forests, rare Acadian floodplains and endangered wildlife and will add more than 500 acres to a growing corridor of protected areas along this much-loved river.

The Nature Trust has secured a deal to purchase the three properties, part of a generous community donation by the Oland family and collaboration with the Historic Sherbrooke Village Development Society. The transfer to the Nature Trust is anticipated to finalize in the next several weeks.

The Nature Trust launched the St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign in 2006 to protect private lands identified as top provincial conservation priorities. The long-term vision was to connect these biodiversity hotspots by preserving a contiguous corridor of intact riparian habitat, essential to the long-term health of the river.

Beginning with a generous land donation by the late A.M. Sandy and Shirley Cameron, followed by other land donations, as well as financial and volunteer support from many friends of the river including the David and Faye Sobey Foundation; Paul and Marsha Sobey; Hardy and Barbara Eshbaugh; the Donner Canadian Foundation; the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust; federal government partners and many others, the vision of the St. Mary's Legacy Campaign is being realized. The "ribbon of green" now encompasses a remarkable 9,500 acres of protected areas, including Nature Trust lands and provincial parks and protected areas.

Funding for Sustainable Community Initiatives

Two important environmental projects are receiving funding from the Province's Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund. Environment and Climate Change Minister Timothy Halman announced the \$430,000 investment August 15, in Porters Lake.

Non-profit organization MusGo Rider will receive \$130,400 to install solar panels to power electric vehicle chargers and its office building. It will also retrofit the building, which will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 589 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Halifax Regional Municipality will receive \$306,600 to develop a solid waste strategy that aligns with climate objectives in Nova Scotia. The strategy will reduce waste and energy consumption in solid waste systems.

Chief Judge Provincial, Family Courts Appointed

Judge Perry F. Borden will be the new chief judge of the Nova Scotia provincial and family courts. Judge Borden was appointed to the bench in 2020 after serving as a Crown attorney with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service. His time there included five years in the special prosecutions service, focusing on cybercrime, child pornography, child-luring and sexual assault offences.

Judge Borden starts his five-year term on Sunday, August 27. Chief Judge Williams will continue to sit as a judge.

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Guardian

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News from our Federal Capital - Dr. Stephen Ellis

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with CBC reporter Mary-Catherine McIntosh, that was aired on CBC Radio's Saturday morning flagship program, 'The House'. The issue was climate change and the rising waters that would cut off Canada from Nova Scotia, inundate a section of the Trans-Canada Highway and the national rail line, as well as possibly submerging part of the Town of Amherst.

While Ottawa steadfastly offers to fund 50 per cent of a multi-million-dollar dike raising/replacement project with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, I insist the Trudeau government must come to terms with what amounts to an emergency that must be dealt with now, and not when the floodwaters come.

Truro's Victoria Park: While Mary-Catherine McIntosh was in Cumberland-Colchester, I took her on a tour of Truro's renown Victoria Park, to inspect the extreme damage caused by 2022's post-hurricane Fiona. We talked little about the physical damage to the landscape and dwelled on the psychological effects that Covid-19 created, to be heightened by the following post-tropical storm which followed. It is a simple matter to assess a storm's destruction, but far more difficult to delve into the psychological damage such catastrophes create.

En français: Je voudrais s'assurer tous les résidents de Cumberland Colchester que cette une priorité d'être bilingue. Je prends des leçons françaises deux fois chaque semaine. J'ai pris le français à l'école et aussi à l'université mais c'est beaucoup plus longtemps!

Je souhaite tous un bon automne!

Agricultural fairs: Late summer wouldn't be late summer without agricultural fairs throughout Cumberland-Colchester. I am pleased to have been onsite to view plans for a restored Cumberland County Exhibition in Oxford.

I spent an informative time with Kristeen Thomson and summer staff members Kate MacDonald and Ayden Ellis on a tour of the Ex grounds.

Improvements have been completed to the five buildings on Oxford's Exhibition Grounds that general manager Kristeen foresees as a rejuvenation of the agricultural fair in Northern Nova Scotia.

The Rath Eastlink Community Centre has assumed control of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition in Bible Hill. Extensive renovations and new builds indicate to me that the agricultural sector's showmanship commitment is making a comeback in Cumberland-Colchester.

What is happening in Oxford and Bible Hill is certainly good news!

Supporting leader: I joined Leader Pierre Poilievre's 'Axe the Tax' team, touring Prince Edward Island August 16. The Island's four seats have been Liberal stronghold for nearly 40 years, and I sensed a loud and concerted shift as we toured the Island August 16.

News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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and one of only four in the country.

Physician assistants provide safe, competent and effective healthcare under the supervision of physicians. They can: perform histories and physical examinations; order blood and radiological tests; make diagnoses and outline treatment plans; assist with surgeries; perform minor surgical procedures; consult other medical and health services; prescribe medication; attend to medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest; provide counselling and preventive services; administer vaccinations and perform educational, research and administrative functions

The Province is investing \$5.6 million to develop the program and providing \$1.5 million in annual funding.

Action for Health Data Updated: Updated healthcare data is now available on the Action for Health website. A new indicator to track progress in reducing red tape and unnecessary administrative burden for doctors, staff and patients through legislative changes and new and improved processes and forms has been added. The latest data - from the first quarter of 2023-24, April 1 to June 30 - shows ongoing positive trends in some areas. The target for admissions to long-term care continues to be met, and the number of people removed from the surgical wait list has been larger than the number of patients added for five consecutive quarters.

Action for Health, launched in April 2022, is the government's plan to improve healthcare in Nova Scotia. There is work underway and progress on all six of the plan's broad solutions and their individual action items have been updated. Some highlights from the first quarter include: reduced the surgical wait list; completed more surgeries and procedures; continued to grow the number of doctors in Nova Scotia; 168 doctors started practicing here between April 1, 2022 and March

I met with PEI's Health and Wellness Minister Hon. Mark McLane. We instantly agreed on the necessity of a unified approach to Canada's healthcare challenges of attracting and retaining healthcare professionals.

We toured the Skye View Farms to view firsthand challenges facing Island potato growers. Hosted by Alex and Valerie Docherty, I learned that Trudeau government policy makes it impossible to export seed potatoes outside of PEI. Leader Poilievre promises to end the ban.

I also enjoyed a tour of Action Aero, Charlottetown, that specializes in the overhaul and repair of fuel, oil, and air-related engine accessories, to international customers.

Several hundred people from across PEI attended a rally held in Hunter River, where the leader gave a spirited speech on what's wrong with the tired and regressive Liberal government, and what a Conservative government would do to create positive change for Canadians.

I was honoured to present closing remarks at the event.

Atlantic MPs meet: In late August, I attended the Conservative Party Atlantic Caucus meetings in Gander NL. These were important sessions where we discussed rising waters at the Isthmus of Chignecto, Fundy tidal power, aquaculture, the Atlantic loop, healthcare, and drug addition.

August bits and bites:

I had the pleasure of hosting Anna Roberts, Conservative MP from King-Vaughan, whose seat is in the Greater Toronto Area. Anna is the Shadow Minister for Seniors.

I attended the opening of the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax. They were a tremendous success! A special applause goes out to Millbrook Chief Bob Gloade and his team, that attracted competitors from across the continent.

I rode my bike in the km Heartland Tour that began at Truro's Victoria Park. The ride promotes health and active lifestyles. There was a great turnout and conditions were perfect!

I was impressed during my tour of Camp Pagweak in Pugwash, with its extensive facilities and programs for Cumberland and Colchester youth, providing them with a week's worth of summer fun.

I attended the Acadien flag raising ceremony at Truro town hall on August 11.

I spent a week in South Korea with a number of fellow Parliamentarians, and I was honoured to present a keynote presentation at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. We also found graves and remembered many from our area of Cumberland-Colchester, who were killed in action during the Korean War.

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31, 2023, a net gain of 86 physicians; added more nursing seats at Nova Scotia Community College and a new nursing program at Acadia University, in partnership with Cape Breton University; launched a new incentive for family doctors with an office-based practice, to match patients with greatest need with a family doctor sooner; invested in 60 new and enhanced clinics to connect more people to primary care and launched the Care Coordination Centre, giving healthcare teams real-time information on things like hospital bed availability, wait lists, ambulance offloads and patient transfers to help them provide better, faster care to patients

Nova Scotians can also get data on access to primary healthcare on the Action for Health website's daily dashboard, such as: in June, there were 1,407 visits to mobile primary care clinics, 5,000 visits to urgent treatment centres, 6,437 visits to VirtualCareNS and 5,070 visits to primary care clinics; more than 124,000 people on the Need a Family Practice Registry now have access to primary care clinics and everyone on the list is eligible for free virtual care and more than 66,000 Nova Scotians on the registry have signed up for VirtualCareNS.

Somebeachsomewhere Pavilion Announcement: On August 1st I had the pleasure of joining my colleague, the Honorable Greg Morrow, Minister for Agriculture and MLA Guysborough-Tracadie, along with staff, stakeholders and community members in the Village of Bible Hill to announce the new name for multi-purpose pavilion on the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition grounds. The building will be named the Somebeachsomewhere Pavilion, after the legendary Nova Scotian racehorse and a world champion.

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