

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

active hurricane season this year and reminding Nova Scotians to closely monitor the WeatherCAN mobile application, the website <https://Canada.ca/weather> or its other weather channels for official hurricane alerts.

### New Master's Program to Train Physician Assistants

The Province announced August 3, a new physician assistant program at Dalhousie University is expected to begin in January. The two-year master's program will be open to 24 students. Priority will be given to Nova Scotian applicants who meet the program's eligibility criteria. This will be the first physician assistant program in Atlantic Canada and one of only four in the country.

"We heard from doctors that having more physician assistants would free up time, allowing them to focus on more complex issues or things that only physicians can do," said Michelle Thompson, Minister responsible for the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment. "We know we need more healthcare providers, and physician assistants can help provide Nova Scotians faster access to care. We are proud to be able to train physician assistants right here in Nova Scotia."

Physician assistants provide safe, competent and effective healthcare under the supervision of physicians.

Dalhousie's senate has approved the new program, and the university is now accepting applications. Approval is pending from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, which assesses academic programs before implementation to ensure they meet agreed-upon standards and to provide quality assurance to students, governments and the public.

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

### New LifeFlight Airplane Unveiled

A new EHS (Emergency Health Services) LifeFlight airplane will soon transport non-critical care patients from Yarmouth and Sydney to Halifax for tests and treatment. The new service will free up ambulances and paramedics for local emergency calls - reducing wait times - and save patients hours of travel by road.

"The demand on emergency health services is growing and the best place for ambulances and paramedics to be is in their communities, helping people when an emergency strikes," said Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness. "This new plane will also drastically reduce the time it takes for patients to access the healthcare they need and return home sooner."

Travelling by plane from Yarmouth or Sydney to Halifax will take about an hour, compared with about five hours by ambulance. It will also be more comfortable for patients.

The plane will carry two to four patients per trip and begin service next week with three round trips daily. That means up to 12 ambulances a day will be staying in communities. The Province's contract with PAL Aerospace for one airplane for critical care transports has been amended to include this second plane, a specially outfitted PAL Beech 1900 turboprop.

### Financial Support for Fisheries and Aquaculture Businesses

The Province is providing financial assistance for more licensed fisheries and aquaculture businesses in Nova Scotia affected by wildfires.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Business Wildfire Relief Pro-

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### Bearcat Season tickets are on sale at the RECC.

Prices: Adult \$250.00,  
Student/Senior/Military \$210.00,  
Young (12 and under) \$135.00,  
Family Pack (2 Adults + 2 Student/Youth) \$700.00,  
Children 5 and under are free.

### Single Game Prices

Adult: \$14.00, Student/Senior/Military: \$10.00  
Youth (12 and under) \$7.00,  
Family Pack (2 Adults + 2 Student/Youth) \$700.00

## Truro to host 2023 World Junior A Hockey Challenge

By Maurice Rees

Truro has been selected by Hockey Canada to host the 2023 World Junior A Hockey Challenge from Dec. 10-17 as of seven events stretching across five provinces for the 2023-2024 season. The tournament returns to Atlantic Canada for the fourth time and to Truro for the second time.

In Atlantic Canada, three other events will be held in Summerside and Charlottetown, PEI; Sydney, NS and Quispamsis, NB for other events in November and early December.

The 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge will be played Nov. 4-11 in Charlottetown and Summerside, PE, marking the first time in the tournament's 37-year history that it will be hosted in the province.

Canada's National Para Hockey Team will compete for gold with three other countries at the 2023 Para Hockey Cup, which will be held Dec. 3-9 in Quispamsis, NB, marking the fourth Hockey Canada event Quispamsis has hosted.

In the spring, the Men's U18 National Club Championship will be played April 22-28 in Sydney, NS.

The remaining three events will be held in Dawson Creek, and Vernon, BC, while Oakville, ON will round out the 2023-2024 events.

In chronological order the events are: Featuring some of the best young women's hockey players in Canada, the 2023 National Women's Under-18 Championship will run Nov. 5-11 in Dawson Creek, BC, bringing the event back to the Peace Region for the first time since 2012. In the spring, Canada's Women's U18 National Club Championship will be decided at the Esso Cup in Vernon, BC from April 21-27. The best Junior A teams in Canada will take to the ice at the 2024 Centennial Cup in Oakville, ON, with the Oakville Blades hosting the national championship from May 9-19.

"This is an exciting time for Hockey Canada as we announce seven events that play a critical role in the development of men's, women's and para hockey athletes,

coaches and staff," said Pat McLaughlin, chief operating officer of Hockey Canada. "We hope that hosting these tournaments will help introduce new fans to the game, create lifelong memories for Canadians and have a positive impact in each community long after the medals have been handed out."

During the announcement,

Dean McIntosh, vice-president of strategic partnerships and community impact said, "We are thrilled to share the list of communities that will host Hockey Canada events during the 2023-24 season. The support we have received from host committees has been outstanding and we are confident that participants, volunteers, partners and fans will have fantastic experiences at each tournament."

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### Bearcat Banter - August 21, 2023

## PRE-CAMP DECISIONS

Training Camp hasn't opened yet, but its clear things are shaping up well for the Truro Bearcats.

Every year, the Bearcats plan is to ice a competitive team, make the playoffs, then see what happens. It's still the plan.

When last year's campaign ended, the Bearcats aged out seven players, leaving twelve forwards, two defencemen and one goalie eligible to return. That constitutes a solid nucleus, all part of a team which lost in the Divisional Finals and one which might feel there's some unfinished business. There are obviously holes to be filled and pieces to be found. General Manager, Jamie Barbour, now in his third season with the responsibility, has given the task his undivided attention.

Prior to the Midget Draft in June, he engineered a trade with the West Kent Steamers, acquiring the rights to forward, Brandon Abbass and defenceman, Jake Beardsmore, both nineteen and both coming off strong rookie years with the South Shore Lumberjacks.

Kelsey Ouelette was traded to the Soo Thunderbirds (NOJHL) for the rights to defenceman, Mason

Chitaroni, a nineteen-year-old who played last year with the Acadie-Bathurst Titan. Alexandre Nadew, a twenty-year-old forward from Quebec, was acquired from the Victoriaville Tigres. The team acquired veteran goalie, Yacine Chemrouk, from the Lindsay Muskies (OJHL). The twenty-year-old was the team's MVP last year.

Zach Welsh, who spent his rookie season in Truro in 2019-2020, was acquired from the steamers. He will complete his junior eligibility where it started.

The defensive corps will see the return of nineteen-year-old Brady Stone. He split last year between the Bearcats and the Cole Harbour Jr. B. Colts. It appears the overall goal was to ice an experienced squad. This may explain why management went young in the midget draft. It's important to keep in mind the QMJHL Camps opened last week. A number of players on Truro's protected list are involved in these camps, including several current players. It's equally important to wish them the very best with their aspirations.

Training Camp opens August 29th.

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