

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*  
 MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0  
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**Continued from: Letters to the Editor on page 4**

(Sebastian Copp contacted the Shoreline Journal asking to submit here concern about Hwy 311, which she has posted on a couple of Facebook groups. She was asked to submit her concerns to be published as a Letter to the Editor. Her submission follows.)

**Hi Everyone,**

Here is the post I've made to a couple of local Facebook Groups. It should explain everything fairly clearly. Please reach out if you have any questions. Thanks!

If you have any concerns about the safety/condition of the Route 311, please consider taking a few minutes to read this message. If you support this cause, please share this message widely.

I've heard from many people about various concerns regarding the 311 - road washouts, the lack of paved shoulders, the lack of any webcams (especially over Nuttby), poor or no cell reception along most of the route... If you share any of these, or other, concerns, it's time to speak up. Here are some options:

Consider writing your own personal letter, copying and pasting the message below, or modifying it, and e-mailing it to our MLA in Colchester North, Tom Taggart. Unfortunately, Tom Taggart has a poor habit of never returning e-mails, so be sure to CC the Premier, the NS Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, Kim Masland (Minister of Public Works), and the Conservative Caucus Office:

Tom.Taggartmla@gmail.com; premier@novascotia.ca; tir-occ@novascotia.ca; Kim.maslandmla@gmail.com, OR publicworksminister@novascotia.ca.  
 PCcaucus@novascotia.ca

You can also call Tom Taggart's office (902-641-2335 - please note he also has a difficult time returning voice messages). You can also find relevant phone numbers, e-mails, and addresses below:

Tom Taggart - <https://nslegislature.ca/members/profiles/tom-taggart>; NS Premier -

<https://nslegislature.ca/members/cabinet/premier>; Kim Masland - <https://nslegislature.ca/members/profiles/kim-masland>

Be sure to include your full name and mailing address if you

choose to write an e-mail or letter. This will demonstrate you to be a constituent in Tom Taggart's catchment area.

Feel free to also drop into a Public Works or Department of Transportation

Office in your area.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. Below is a link that should open up a draft e-mail if you wanted a starting place for an e-mail (best to open on a phone). Remember to sign it at the bottom!

<https://tinyurl.com/Route311>

I've also pasted the draft letter here:

**Dear MLA Tom Taggart, Premier Tim Houston, and Public Works Minister Kim Masland,**

The Route 311 in Colchester County urgently needs paved shoulders.

The Route 311 between Tatamagouche and Onslow is a main and crucial throughfare linking Truro and many North Shore communities. The 311, for its entire length, has only gravel shoulders, which in many places have eroded and washed out deeply, right up to the edge of the road (e.g. coming down Nuttby towards Earlton). This creates major safety hazards and very narrow, treacherous margins of error for drivers. This has once again become unmistakably obvious this summer, where the washout was so bad in North River, the 311 was closed. A month after this, deep ruts in this area were still marked with pylons. Putting more gravel down to fill in a washout is only a band-aid solution. Increasingly heavy rainstorms in the summer seem to be the new norm in Nova Scotia, and leaving gravel shoulders to weather these downpours, which are now leading to fatal flooding, will mean Nova Scotians are repeatedly exposed to very hazardous road conditions.

Because it is such a crucial link to the North Shore, many wide vehicles travel the 311 - transporting buildings, heavily loaded logging trucks, and crucially, also ambulances. The 311 crosses the Cobequid Mountains, going over mainland Nova Scotia's second highest mountain, so it is particularly exposed and vulnerable to extreme weather. This also creates major safety issues that, combined with the lack of paved shoulders, increases the risk of major accidents. There have been innumerable occasions in the past year where falling and drifting snow has covered up the entire road, further increasing the odds of slipping into a shoulder rut, or a serious motor

*complete with a draft copy being given to staff before the end of July, meeting their three-month timeline for completion. Given time sensitivities around release funding, Scotia Pool would like opportunity to present the plan to Council at their meeting on August 29th".*

## Scotia Pool Before Council on August 29<sup>TH</sup>

By Maurice Rees

Scotia Pool management will be making a special presentation to Colchester Council at its monthly meeting on August 29th.

Council to receive a brief presentation from Scotia Pool at their regularly scheduled Council meeting on August 29, 2024. Permission was given at council's committee meeting on August 15th. During the 2024-2025 budgeting process Scotia Pool asked for an additional \$100,000 in addition to

its annual grant of \$75,000.

Scotia Pool expressed fear that without the additional \$100,000 it might be forced to close before end of the year. During budget deliberations, Council passed the following motion: *"That the additional \$50,000 be granted with the caveat that the business plan/studies be completed within a three-month period and costs for the business plan/studies can be accessed from this additional \$50,000."*

The public out-cry opposing council's decision was instant. furious and continues to this day. The Shoreline Journal has published several letters from irritated residents since the April decision. Heather Thompson a former area resident, who swam at Scotia Pool, but now lives in British Columbia submitted a letter which is printed in this issue on Page 4.

Scotia Pool's request at the August 15th meeting stated: *"The business plan is now*

vehicle accident. The high populations of deer in this area further exacerbate all these risks.

Parts of the 311 have recently been paved, and unfortunately, no shoulders were paved during this process. The lanes of the road were barely created wide enough, and there are several areas where the gravel shoulder makes contact with the outside white line, if there is even one visible.

The 311 also has large dead zones - many kilometers long - for cell reception, which increases the need for safer roads.

The 311 simply isn't safe as it is currently designed, without paved shoulders.

The communities and businesses that depend on the 311 are growing rapidly, and with more traffic on it, it is becoming increasingly dangerous to travel this road. We have many essential workers who need to use the 311 every day to serve their communities, and they deserve to be provided safe roads to travel on, as does everyone else who depends on this crucial route.

There are many cyclists who use the 311, but is a dangerous road to bike on, so many who would like to simply are not willing to take the risk. Our government should be promoting safe means of active transportation. In this area, there are no reasonable means of transportation other than driving (no shuttles, buses, trains, etc...). Some people here do not have access to vehicles. Some people also want to stay healthy by biking.

We are counting on your kind and urgent attention to the above, and looking forward to seeing paved shoulders and other improvements to the 311 in the very near future. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely  
 Sebastian Copp <sebastiancee@gmail.com>

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 A love forever strong and true  
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Two hearts two souls one love true love

With these diamonds and ring  
 Of true love i now do sing  
 From my soul and from my heart  
 May our true love not depart

Two hearts two souls one love true love

With these diamonds and pearl  
 From our childhood as boy and girl  
 May our true love overtime that's grown  
 To this world may it now be shown

Two hearts two souls one love true love

With these diamonds and wine  
 May we toast to love divine  
 For true love comes only heaven sent  
 For ours is pure as god had meant

Two hearts two souls one love true love

With these diamonds and golden bands  
 On each one of our left hands  
 May our true love always be  
 The strongest love the world may see!

Two hearts two souls one love true love


God bless and thank-you  
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# Tom TAGGART



**Tom Taggart MLA Constituency Office**

Location - 10653 HWY 2 Masstown, B0M 1G0  
 The building beside Masstown Petrocan  
 Contact Info - 902-641-2335  
 Email - [tom.taggartmla@gmail.com](mailto:tom.taggartmla@gmail.com)  
 Hours - 8:30am - 3:30pm

Use the lower level entrance - Look for the Entrance Sign in Parking Lot