

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## School Supplies Support for Families

Families on income assistance will get more help with the cost of school supplies this year. Parents of children aged five to 18 will receive a one-time increase on their income assistance payment by the end of August. The benefit has also been extended this year to include four-year-olds attending pre-primary this fall.

The payment for children aged 13 to 18 will increase from \$160 to \$200. The payment for children aged five to 12 will increase from \$80 to \$100. Children who turn four by the end of December and are eligible for pre-primary in the fall will now receive a \$100 payment. No application is required; the payment will be included on clients' August 29 payment.

Supports are also available for families on income assistance to support older children and adults with costs of post-secondary education or employment-focused opportunities. The Youth Development Initiative provides eligible youth who are connected to the Department and are aged 12 to 20 with access to work placements, volunteering, leadership development, community projects and more, to help them reach their educational and career goals.

Income assistance clients and dependents may also be eligible for other career and educational programs, including EDGE, Skills2SucSEED and Career Rising.

## Newborns Screened for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Newborns across the Maritimes will now be screened for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), through a genetic test added to the Maritime Newborn Screening program. The screening, done at birth, will provide early diagnosis and access to care sooner for infants with the disorder.

The screening program expansion, which took effect August 19, is a partnership between the Province, the Maritime Newborn Screening program and Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Muscular Dystrophy Canada committed \$420,000 for equipment, training and validation work to begin screening for SMA, a genetic condition that leads to muscle weakness. It affects three to four newborns in the Maritimes each year. It is now one of 24 conditions covered by the screening program.

## NSLC First-Quarter Results

The Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC) released its first-quarter financial results on August 20. Total sales from April 1 to June 30, 2024, were up 1.5 per cent to \$222.5 million, with an increase in both beverage alcohol and cannabis sales compared with the same time last year.

Beverage alcohol sales increased 0.7 per cent to \$191.3 million, and cannabis sales increased 7.3 per cent to \$31.2 million. Earnings decreased 0.5 per cent to \$70.4 million.

Sales of Nova Scotia alcohol products increased by 5.4 per cent to \$24.7 million. Locally produced ready-to-drink products lead the beverage alcohol category with an 11.2 per cent increase to \$9.8 million. Local cannabis products decreased 1.4 per cent to \$9.3 million; Nova Scotia cannabis products account for 29.9 per cent of all cannabis sales.

Other local product sales results include: craft beer increased 8.9 per cent to \$8.4 million; wine decreased 7.3 per cent to \$3.8 million and spirits decreased 3.5 per cent to \$2.8 million.

## YourHealthNS to Include Ultrasound Reports

Nova Scotians can now access more information about their ultrasound results through the YourHealthNS app. Ultrasound reports completed from August 5 onward will start to be available in the app as of August 19. The report includes the body part examined, the reason for the ultrasound, findings and a comparison with any previous ultrasounds. Reports completed after August 5 will be available through the app 14 days later.

Ultrasound reports will add to the information - date, time and location of the scan, body part scanned and the provider who requested the ultrasound - currently available through the app. Images will not be available.

*continued on page 8*

## News from our Federal Capital - Dr. Stephen Ellis

*Continued from page 5*

2024-25 school year.

I had a great time at Minudie Day. It is a fabulous fun event that brings so many old and new friends together to enjoy the festivities.

I was in Amherst at the Business Innovation Centre for a discussion on how to establish a neighbourhood watch program and create safer communities. We discussed crime and the justice system.

### Meeting folks

I kept office hours during the summer in Truro and Amherst offices meeting numerous folks, doing my best to guide them through their problems toward finding solutions. For more about this, please visit my site [www.drstephenellismp.com](http://www.drstephenellismp.com). In the August issue is a feature 'Keeping Office Hours In The Summertime'.

I met with Sherry Patriquin-Martel from the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce, along with Karen Putnam from Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity; Filipino Consul Connie Lacson; Nova Scotia-Recognized Agent Mary Cecile Francisco; and Peachy Forbes of the Filipino Cultural Society of Nova Scotia.

So, what's summertime without outside band concerts? I had a great time in Parrsboro at the 50th anniversary of Parrsboro Citizens Band Day. The Main Street event lasted three days, with attendance well above expectations!

I was able to speak with the Rotary Club of Amherst to provide an update on my work. I outlined how almost seven million Canadians do not have access to primary care. I defined our Blue Seal program, which will allow internationally trained physicians to bring their skills quickly and safely to Canada.

### The food we eat

I had the pleasure to meet with Congressman Eleanor Jesus Mandrona from the Philippines, as part of Romblon State University's delegation at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. RSU is a university in the Philippines that is working to finalize a long-term partnership with our local university. Dal AC will mentor by developing an agricultural campus and smart farm at RSU. The food we eat and where it comes from are of great concern.

So, if you ate today, thank a farmer! I had the opportunity to visit The Clean Farm, which is a small-scale, no-till farm located in Salmon River. Brendan Neima's vegetables are certified organic (Ecocert) and he believes in sustainable, low-impact agriculture. We need more of this, particularly with a move to replace backyard lawns with vegetable gardens, and the move toward self-sufficiency.

### On the move

The Truro Raceway provided the backdrop for a fun time at the Achieve Financial Atlantic Women's Driver's Challenge, followed by the Wiener Dog Championship. Dachshunds were everywhere! I also attended the opening of the Rustic Table, located in the new Grandstand at the raceway.

## News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

*Continued from page 5*

need.

We put healthcare in the palm of your hand with YourHealthNS. The app helps Nova Scotians find the nearest health services, and book blood work, X-ray and other appointments. And since this summer, any Nova Scotian who wants to can access their own health records.

Nova Scotia is also leading the country in healthcare innovation. From a first-in-the-world radiotherapy system to pinpoint and treat tumors more precisely than ever before - which means quicker recovery times and better outcomes - to robot-assisted spinal, hip and knee surgeries, this technology is offering patients better care, faster and Nova Scotia is at the forefront.

Our hybrid operating room - the first in Atlantic Canada - is where

I was at the Railway Park for the Coming Home to Brookfield festivities. It was a great time seeing so many Big Blue Conservatives in attendance, having such a good time.

It was good to see the strength of the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce, during a breakfast meeting I attended in Springhill. General Manager Beth Peterkin and president Keith Thompson are taking the business group in a new direction. A growing membership is proof of that. While in Springhill, I visited GOVRC, an organization that is committed to creating an environment that is more responsive to individual goals and encouraging personal choices for its sheltered participants. Its intent is to provide opportunities for hourly-waged jobs to adults with disabilities, expanding programs and delivering more services to the community.

It was such an important time to attend the 50th Anniversary Gala for the Apex Golf Tournament held at the Truro Golf Club. The unveiling of a plaque commemorates the incredible contributions of the Black community of Truro and to the Truro Golf Club. Despite racism that existed over the years, many incredible golfers from "the Island" have represented Truro on the national and international stage including Darrell Maxwell, a trailblazer in Nova Scotia golf. Mr. Maxwell was awarded a lifetime membership for his achievements. Congratulations!

Oftentimes in summer, events in our large constituency seem to happen at once. I was able to attend the 1st Annual Colchester County Rib Fest and FireFit at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Then it was off to Stewiacke for Stewiacke Town Days and to participate in the annual parade. What fun to be in it!

It was also a pleasure to be invited to the Malagash Festival Day, to see the restored stage, new picnic tables, benches, bushes and flowers. Well done!

From August 19 to 21, I attended Atlantic Conservative Caucus meetings in Saint John, covering issues affecting the region, and to plan for our return to Parliament in September.

### Looking ahead

As I wind up my summer, the most important part of my job is, as always, meeting face-to-face with folks - from our constituency offices in Truro and Amherst. With assistance from staff, many problems have been solved. I can't promise to find an answer to everyone's situation, but I will do my utmost to work for every person that seeks assistance from me.

That said, The Conservative Party, with Leader Pierre Poilievre is moving ahead with the four policy pillars that we will address, on the road toward the next federal election: Axe the Tax; Build the Homes; Fix the Budget and Stop the Crime.

As always, healthcare reform is the keystone in Cumberland-Colchester.

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: [stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca)**

patients having cardiac or vascular surgeries can get diagnostic tests right in the room.

And we've reduced our surgery wait times by 20 per cent. There are now an additional 2,000 surgeries being performed every year.

There is so much more! I invite Nova Scotians to sign up for our Action for Health newsletter at

<https://actionforhealth.novascotia.ca/news> to get updates every month.

We've made a lot of progress in the last three years. But we can - and will - do even more to get Nova Scotians the best possible healthcare.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia

**Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca) or 902-424-6600.**

# \$30,204,626 for 1812 units across Nova Scotia

Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities assisted by Darren Fisher, Member of Parliament for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, has announced more than \$30 million in contributions and low-cost loans through the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) to help build and repair 1,812 affordable homes across

Nova Scotia.

Locally, of the many groups across the province receiving assistance Millbrook First Nation will receive \$4,200,000 for repairs to 280 units, while Sipekne'katik First Nation, Indian Brook will receive \$45,000 for repairs to three units out of a total of \$30,204,626 for 1812 units.

The announcement took

place at 91 True North Crescent in Dartmouth, which received \$8.2 million to build 32 new homes and will be operated by the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia. The project will feature a mix of one-, two- and three-bed-

room townhomes across three buildings. All buildings are net-zero, energy efficient, and are conveniently located near lakes, parks, public transport and the local elementary school.

**NOVA SCOTIA**

# Masstown Hardware

**castle**  
building centres

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 5:00pm**