

Legislature to open September 23
The first session of the 65th general assembly will resume
Tuesday, September 23, at 1 p.m.
Province Pursues Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

The Province is calling on qualified consultants to carry out a passenger rail feasibility study. A request for standing qualification (RFSQ) was issued August 19. Identified as a key action in the recently released Regional Transportation Plan and in the Province's response, the rail study will assess potential opportunities and challenges associated with light rail transit in Halifax Regional Municipality and passenger rail in the broader region.

"Passenger and light rail has the potential to reshape travel for Nova Scotians by providing a safe, reliable and high-capacity form of transit service," said Public Works Minister Fred Tilley. "While a project like this could be transformative, it's also incredibly complex. The passenger rail feasibility study will ensure that any decisions related to rail in the province are researched, evidence-based and tailored for Nova Scotians."

The multi-part study will: Evaluate and screen possible regional and urban corridors; advance conceptual designs for options in the selected corridors; provide an evidence-based evaluation of options and include a long-term transit phasing strategy to support growth, network resiliency and strategic corridor preservation.

Qualified firms have until September 16 to submit their response.

New Maritime Heritage Festival Launches in September

Cutting-edge innovation, historic ships and traditional sea shanties are coming together in a new celebration of the province's ocean connections this September. The Maritime Heritage Festival launches on the Halifax waterfront September 12-14, featuring hands-on programming for all ages, ship tours and live music.

"The Maritime Heritage Festival brings together the past, present and future of our relationship with the sea," said Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. "It's a celebration of Nova Scotia's unique coastal identity and an invitation to explore and get involved in our vibrant ocean and maritime sectors."

Highlights of the free event include activities aboard CSS Acadia and HMCS Sackville, pop-up exhibitions from the Nova Scotia Museum and Bluenose II, ocean and naval presentations, and live musical performances.

The Maritime Heritage Festival is organized by the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic with key support from the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust and Build Nova Scotia.

Support for Growing Municipalities

The Province continues to support growing municipalities through the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID). Applications opened August 12. The program helps fund projects such as water, stormwater and wastewater work, climate change adaptations and accessibility upgrades.

"Nova Scotia is a growing province and municipalities have told us they need improved water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure so they can support more housing," said John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "That's why we created this program last year to help municipalities meet Nova Scotians' needs for more housing and other important projects."

The Province invests \$15 million annually in the program, which covers up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs. Applications close on October 9. Preference will be given to projects that are ready to proceed.

Helicopter Incident

The Department of Natural Resources confirms that one of its helicopters crashed in shallow water at about 4:24 p.m. today, August 15, while working on the Long Lake wildfires.

The pilot was conscious and talking with firefighters who quickly reached the aircraft. By 6 p.m. he was rescued from his aircraft and taken for medical assessment.

Out of respect for the pilot's privacy, the department is not releasing his name.

Transport Canada investigates all aircraft incidents and has been informed. The department will cooperate fully.

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Connecting With Veterans & Service Members



The Millbrook Powwow was a beautiful display of Mi'kmaq culture and tradition.

Notes from our Federal Capital - Alana Hirtle, MP
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this month too. I had an opportunity to meet with the Environment Minister, and took that opportunity to bring attention to the Isthmus of Chignecto. I explained that, for me, this isn't just an environmental issue - it's about protecting the economic lifeline that connects the Maritimes to the rest of Canada. The vulnerability to sea level rise is real, but so is our ability to address it if we work together with all levels of government.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Nova Scotia Cheese Trail launch at Masstown Creamery. Now

THIS is the kind of initiative that gets me excited! Taking our world-class local products and creating experiences that draw visitors in to support our local economy - it's brilliant and exactly the kind of creative thinking our region needs.

As I look back on August, what strikes me most is the incredible potential I see everywhere. Whether it's Veterans who've dedicated their lives to service, entrepreneurs building businesses that celebrate our local products, community leaders organizing festivals that bring us together, or hous-

ing advocates working to ensure everyone has a place to call home - we have all the ingredients for something special here.

The conversations I've had, the people I've met, and the ideas that are percolating all point to the same thing: when we **WORK TOGETHER**, we can create real change. Not someday, not eventually, but right now. The bill I'm putting forward in September is just the beginning. The housing initiatives, the climate infrastructure work, the support for local business - it's all connected, and it's all about making life better for the people

who call Cumberland-Colchester home.

I want to thank everyone who took time to meet with me, share their stories, and offer their ideas. This is how the system is supposed to work - **REAL CONVERSATIONS** leading to **REAL SOLUTIONS**. I can't wait to see what September brings!

Amherst & Truro offices are both open Monday-Thursday 10AM-3PM.

Can't visit? Email
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Alana

Great Village Legion Branch 72 to host Memorial Dedication September 20TH

By Linda Harrington

On October 23, 1941, Lockheed Hudson #AM896 was one of the 12 Hudson Bombers taking flight from RCAF Debert on their final long-distance exercise before being ferried across the Atlantic to the UK. The intended destination being Windsor, Ontario. Shortly after take-off #AM896 tragically crashed

into the ground on the Great Village River, just North of the Great Village Cenotaph. It took the lives of all four airmen.

The names of the four airman are: RCAF Pilot Officer Charles Beeching O'Hanley, Age 20 of Yarmouth, NS; RCAF Sergeant Robert Frederick Kelley, age 21, Toronto, ON; RCAF Pilot Officer Richard Aubrey

Laurd, Age 26 of Burford, ON and RAF Sergeant Norman Leonard Hornsey, Age 21 of Bristol, Northamptonshire, England.

Cobequid Branch #72, Royal Canadian Legion is erecting a Memorial plaque and a Black Granite Bench in their memory, as well as, in memory of all Veterans who

paid the supreme sacrifice.

The dedication of this memorial will be held on Saturday, September 20th beginning at 2:00pm. Reception to follow at the Legion Hall. A number of descendants of the four airman have been notified and plan to be in attendance.

"We Will Remember Them"



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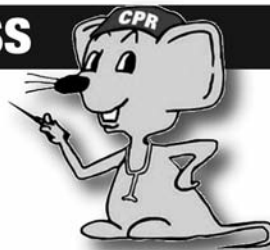
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