

The
Shoreline Tid-Bits
Journal

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Province Ends Relationship With Firefighters School

The Province released the findings of a comprehensive value-for-money audit of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School on August 5. "The results are clear, and they are appalling. We are ending our relationship with the school and will set up an interim training plan for firefighters right away," said Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management. "Our firefighters respond when other people's lives are on the line. They need and deserve, at minimum, a safe place to train. We're going to ensure they have one."

The value-for-money audit was commissioned in June to help ensure the safety of students and staff at the school. This stems from the preventable death of firefighter Skyler Blackie during a training exercise in 2019.

Key findings from the report include: systemic and governance issues; a breakdown in safety accountability; lack of stakeholder engagement; inadequate governance and oversight of the executive director; erosion in public trust and lost confidence of firefighters.

The audit also revealed a failure to uphold a culture of safety; serious, unaddressed safety-related deficiencies; a lack of strategic planning; and a decline in infrastructure.

A steering committee for firefighter training will be established in the coming weeks to oversee an interim training plan and to guide the work on a long-term, comprehensive training model for firefighters once the results of a broader fire services review are in. The goal is to have the interim training available by fall.

The broader fire services governance review is a second, separate review being led by the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia and focusing on governance, operations, communications, funding and more.

More than 680 firefighters from across the province participated in the value-for-money audit, along with 52 fire service leaders and eight members of the board of directors of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School.

Canada's First Offshore Wind Energy Areas Designated

Canada's first four offshore wind energy areas have been designated on Nova Scotia's offshore.

The Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada jointly designated the areas - French Bank, Middle Bank and Sable Island Bank off mainland Nova Scotia and Sydney Bight off Cape Breton on July 29. It is a key step to develop the offshore wind industry that will provide long-term energy security and generational economic benefits for Nova Scotians.

"With some of the top wind speeds in the world, Nova Scotia has the potential to become a clean energy superpower," said Premier Tim Houston. "With the right infrastructure, we'll have the opportunity to send our wind west to power other parts of Canada. By becoming an energy exporter, we can secure long-term prosperity for Nova Scotians."

The designation comes after the public was asked for feedback on five proposed areas in the spring. The input contributed to the decisions to designate four areas and make the French Bank and Sydney Bight areas slightly smaller.

he next step in developing offshore wind energy is identifying the parcels within the designated areas that will be included in the first call for bids later this year. The aim is to license five gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. This will set the stage for future offshore wind development and position Nova Scotia to become an exporter of clean energy.

After the first round of licences are awarded, four other areas identified in the January 2025 regional assessment of offshore wind development will be revisited. They include Western/Emerald Bank, which was the other area shortlisted in the spring.

Enhancements to Regional Air Access Announced

On August 8, Premier Tim Houston joined Rob Lantz, Premier of Prince Edward Island, Gilles LePage, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation with the Government of New Brunswick, and Sean Casey, Member of Parliament for Charlottetown, to announce a partnership with PAL Airlines that will enhance regional air access between the maritime provinces and provide better connectivity for travellers in the region.

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Community Forum on Resource Extraction and Environmental Protection

Citizens of East Hants for a Sustainable Future is calling on residents to join a vital community forum on Thursday September 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the East Hants Sportsplex (Lantz). This event is a chance for the public to get informed, get involved, and make their voices heard on the future of East Hants.

With extractive industries—such as fracking, uranium mining, gold exploration, and lithium development—gaining traction in Nova Scotia, many communities are being left out of the conversation. This gathering invites residents to speak up

and engage with organizations, and community leaders who are working toward a sustainable and democratic future for East Hants.

According to Pat Vinish, a local Kennetcook resident. "Living 1 mile away from a Nova Scotia fracking site, it took several years for the discoloration (and chemicals) to dissipate from my personal water supply. Even now 15 years later, I get noticeable traces after heavy rains and high water table conditions. Needless to say I never drink or cook with my own water any more."

Event Details:

What: Community Forum:
"Citizens of East Hants for a Sustainable Future"

When: Thursday September 18, 2025,
from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: East Hants Sportsplex
1076 Hwy 2, Lantz, NS

Who Should Attend: All concerned residents of
East Hants and surrounding areas

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19mGt7JwDg/>
Come and have your say. Your community. Your environment.
Your future.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact: Ken Summers: kendsummers51@gmail.com or 902 957 2317

The evening will feature a panel discussion with voices from environmental groups, concerned citizens, and representatives from other communities that have faced similar development. Topics will include the environmental and health risks associated with extractive industries, the long-term impacts on local ecosystems, and alternative visions for economic development.

Objectives of the event include: Sharing credible information from local and regional sources; Providing clear actions attendees can take (petitions, contacting officials, spreading awareness); Encour-

aging participation from elected officials and Discussing strong, enforceable standards that protect communities, the environment, and the public interest.

Whether you're concerned about water quality, rural development, or environmental justice, this is your chance to learn more and be part of the conversation.

Deadline
for the
October
issue of

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is
Sept 23

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REMINDER

ONSLOW BELMONT FIRE BRIGADE

**2025 Harvest Sale & Auction
AT THE FIRE HALL IN ONSLOW.**

**Saturday, September 27
8am for viewing. Auction at 9am sharp**

NOTE TO RESIDENTS:

Once again, this year it will be "A ONE "1" DAY SALE"
We will NOT be doing door to door canvassing.
We will accept 'drop-offs' at the fire hall starting Sept. 8.
Or, call and leave a message (902) 662-2555

CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR FURTHER UPDATES



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TAKE PLACE AT
THE FIRE HALL
IN ONSLOW**

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**Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Or by appointment.**