



Municipality of Colchester

NOTICE

The March 2020 Municipality of Colchester NEWSLETTER (Volume 25 Issue 1) was printed prior to widespread cancellations, closures, and changes to services necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This insert provides updated information as of March 24, 2020.

All Municipality of Colchester buildings are closed to the public until further notice.

All recreation programming is cancelled until further notice.

Municipal essential services will continue during building closures. These include solid waste collection, sewer and water maintenance, snow removal, critical road repairs, building inspection, and bill processing.

All **Colchester Solid Waste Facilities** are closed to the public until further notice. Licensed haulers can still access the facilities. Curbside collection will continue as regularly scheduled. Call the **Solid Waste Helpline** for additional information: **902-895-4777**.

The application deadline for the **Low-Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program** has been extended to May 29, 2020.

The property **Tax Sale** previously scheduled for May 5, 2020 is postponed. Once a new date has been set it will be posted on www.colchester.ca and the Colchester Facebook page.

The Municipality is closely following advice from the Province of Nova Scotia as it is continually updated on their COVID-19 website: www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus. Please visit this website for reliable health and safety information.

Other NEWSLETTER Updates:

Unfortunately, the Colchester Legion Pipes & Drums have had to cancel their April to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. Their hope is that events are rescheduled.

The Colchester-Truro Volunteer Award Ceremony that was to take place on April 20, 2020 is postponed. Details will be posted on the Colchester's website and Facebook pages. Volunteer nominations will be accepted until a new deadline is posted.

Any new information about changes to spring or summer events that are supported by the Municipality of Colchester will be posted on our website (www.colchester.ca) and the Colchester Facebook page.

For the latest information about Municipal services please visit our website at www.colchester.ca – see Municipal Notices About COVID-19 – or call 902-897-3160.

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March 2020

Volume 25 Issue 1

2020 Municipal Election

Municipal elections will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 across Nova Scotia.

We will be providing you with information throughout the year including important dates, polling station locations and the nomination process. We will also post information on our website at www.colchester.ca as it becomes available. Stay tuned!

From the Mayor's Desk

Spring is a time of renewal. Within the Municipality of Colchester, each of our departments is working diligently in preparation of work to be done for the upcoming fiscal year 2020-21. We are in the process of preparing budgets, hearing grant request presentations, and setting goals, along with the day-to-day operations. Each year we update our five-year strategic plan, as we know many of our goals must be handled incrementally as we can afford to do them, sometimes by setting up reserve funds earmarked for specific projects or needs, and that requires planning. This is a team effort between our staff and Council.

International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Hockey Championship



L to R: Bill Mills, Mayor, Town of Truro; Christine Blair, Mayor, Municipality of Colchester; Amy Walsh, Executive Director, Hockey Canada; Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage

The Women's World Hockey Championship 2020 has been postponed until 2021 due to the possible health threat from COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This was a decision of the International Ice Hockey Federation, in conjunction with Hockey Canada, and both Canadian and Nova Scotian health authorities. Colchester County is thrilled this championship event has been scheduled for a future date and we will be honoured to host some of the best hockey players from around the globe in 2021.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Town of Truro, Halifax Regional Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada to bring this world-class competition to Nova Scotia. We look forward to hosting several games here in Colchester and to be the gateway for those being played throughout the Province.

This is a momentous occasion for Colchester, for Nova Scotia, and all of Canada. We look

forward to a highly successful event next year and to sharing our Colchester and Maritime warmth and hospitality with our guests from around the world. Please watch for further notification on ticket sales and future scheduling.

Colchester County recognizes the value of this event, and while the postponement is disappointing, we also recognize the importance of reducing potential health risks to all involved.

A special thank you to RECC General Manager, Matt Moore and his staff, and to all the volunteers who so kindly offered their time for this event.

Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society:

In 2019, the Cliffs of Fundy initiative transitioned from a steering committee into an organization registered with Joint Stocks Nova Scotia. The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society, having received a positive evaluation from both Canadian and International UNESCO Global Geopark evaluators, has a bright future.

The Board of Directors is preparing operating plans, securing offices and hiring a full-time manager. Three-year budgets are being finalized and meetings are taking place to discuss support and funding. All of this is aimed at developing the Geopark from Apple River to the Fundy Discovery Site near Truro. Educational activities, a marketing plan, geo-site signage and updated guides are being developed for the Geopark. An interpretive strategy will ensure an exciting, cohesive experience for visitors whether they are vacationers, scientists, birdwatchers, or students.

Cliffs of Fundy has many important partners: Colchester and Cumberland Counties; the Mi'kmaw community; Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency; Communities, Culture, and Heritage Nova Scotia; Five Islands and Cape Chignecto Provincial Parks; FORCE; Fundy Geological Museum; local businesses; and the communities throughout.

There are 43 geosites within the boundaries of the Geopark. These are sites of geological significance that the Geopark will explain and promote. Most are tourist-ready and many others will be developed over time to allow for guided and independent tourist visits. The sites are of natural, historical and cultural significance.

Board representation includes Colchester and Cumberland municipalities; FORCE; Lands & Forestry; Energy & Mines; Communities, Culture & Heritage; local businesses; three internationally renowned geoscientists and the Mi'kmaq community.

This is another exciting project for Colchester County.

Rural Internet:

In February 2020 the Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester welcomed the Province's announcement of a \$19.9 million-dollar contribution from the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust toward a \$60 million-dollar optic fibre-based highspeed internet network that will be built and operated by Xplornet Communications. Together, Cumberland and Colchester will commit \$6 million dollars to the project.

This major investment in our region is a huge step toward our goal of being one of Canada's most digitally connected rural places. We strive for excellent quality of life in our communities. High speed internet will make every part of Colchester and Cumberland a better place to live and do business.

Closing Comments:

Recent meetings have been held with Sean Fraser, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister of Finance; and with Gudie Hutchings, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Rural Economic Development. Both these meetings proved to be very informative on how our municipality can work more closely with Federal representatives.

Congratulations to Colchester Ground Search & Rescue on its 45th Anniversary serving the communities of Colchester County and assisting many other communities throughout Nova Scotia. This is an essential and valued service for our residents. Thank you for all you do.

Colchester Legion Pipes & Drums will be travelling to the Netherlands in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands at the end of April 2020. I sent a message of greeting to Mayor Anneke Raven, Hellendoorne, from Colchester County, which will be delivered by the Colchester Legion Pipes & Drums representatives. This invitation is a privilege and an honour. I know they will represent our County, our Province and our Country very well.

Christine Blair, Mayor

Provincial Funding Announced



On January 30th, the Honorable Karen Casey attended a funding announcement in Colchester Council Chambers to deliver news on provincial funding for two major County projects. The first was a \$100,000 contribution under the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy *Connect2 Program* towards an engineering design of a new pedestrian/active transportation bridge over the Salmon River at the Fundy Discovery Site. Work on the design will begin in March of 2020 and is expected to be completed by mid-summer.

The second involved a \$70,000 contribution under the *Low Carbon Communities Program* that would establish a Community Energy Plan for Colchester. The Program was created by the Province to assist municipalities in developing a strategy that addresses transportation, buildings, electricity and other projects that have the potential to reduce emissions. Through a comprehensive public engagement program, the Municipality foresees the strategy to explore ways and means our Region can reduce its carbon footprint through energy efficiency and reduction. More information can be found on both Programs at www.novascotia.ca/low-carbon-communities/.

E-voting Considered for 2020 Municipal Election

In preparation for the upcoming Municipal Election this Fall, County Council recently explored e-voting as an option to accompany the usual paper ballot process. Effect on voter turnout, cost, and the integrity of results were all factors considered. After a thorough review, Council decided not to include e-voting as an option for 2020.

A 2013 *Internet and Telephone Voting in Nova Scotia* report concluded that: "...while most would agree that online voting is consistent with our increasingly online society, the basic questions of how to maintain the security, validity, and integrity of our elections has not yet, in our opinion, been satisfactorily answered."

Some municipalities have since implemented systems to improve security, validity and integrity of e-voting, however the additional cost to implement these systems, and the question of whether they are 100% effective, remains a concern for Council.

Despite the convenience that e-voting may offer, evidence has also shown that it may not increase voter turnout as one might expect. A recent report completed by the Municipality of Kings revealed that many jurisdictions in Nova Scotia who have introduced e-voting have experienced a decline in voter turnout over time.

"Council carefully weighed the benefits as well as the costs and risks involved and we feel that the paper ballot process remains the most affordable, secure, and reliable option." – Mayor Christine Blair.

Community Development

Home Energy Assessment Rebate Program

The Municipality of Colchester is offering a \$50 rebate to 100 homeowners who complete a Home Energy Assessment through Efficiency Nova Scotia. The regular cost of a Home Energy Assessment is \$99 plus tax. The rebates will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

A Home Energy Assessment is an evaluation of the efficiency of your home. A contractor will spend 2-3 hours reviewing your home from attic to basement and evaluating air leakage, insulation levels, and mechanical systems.

What you get:

- 2-3 hour energy audit of your entire home
- A report with your home's EnerGuide rating and information about energy use
- A report prioritizing efficiency upgrades for your home
- A \$50 rebate on the cost of the assessment from the Municipality of Colchester to the first 100 qualifying applicants (after tax and the rebate, the remaining cost is \$63.85)
- Access to up to \$5,000 in rebates from Efficiency NS on qualifying upgrades (within 12 months of your Assessment)

How to get the rebate:

1. Sign up for the Municipality of Colchester's Home Energy Assessment Rebate Program by filling out an online application at www.colchester.ca/solar or in person at 1 Church Street, Truro. *You must sign up before completing the Assessment to be eligible for the rebate.*
2. Contact an approved contractor to set up a Home Energy Assessment. You can find the approved list of contractors at <https://www.efficiencyns.ca/residential/services-rebates/home-energy-assessment/>.
3. Complete the Home Energy Assessment. Pay the contractor for the Assessment (\$99+tax).
4. Wait to receive your efficiency report and upgrades report from the contractor.
5. Submit your reports to jburris@colchester.ca to confirm that your Assessment has been completed.
6. You will receive your \$50 rebate in the mail (or you can arrange to pick it up).



Rental units are not eligible for a Home Energy Assessment through Efficiency NS, but they do qualify for Free Energy Efficient Product Installation, which can result in significant energy savings. Visit www.efficiencyns.ca for more information.

Have any questions? Contact Joanna Burris at 902-897-3168 or jburris@colchester.ca.

PLEASE NOTE: The new *Home Energy Assessment Rebate Program* is being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efficiency NS is not performing Home Energy Assessments at this time. Please check back later this spring for more details and a new program start date.

Building Permit Fee Changes

As of February 6, 2020 Council approved changes to the Building Permit Fees. The new fees are as follows:

- New Residential Single Unit homes, additions, decks: \$0.10/sq. ft.*
- New Commercial Buildings, Commercial Additions, Duplexes and other Multiple Unit Buildings: \$0.12/sq. ft.*
- Garages 500 sq. ft. and over: \$50.00 (flat rate)

- Garages & Sheds under 500 sq. ft.: \$10.00 (flat rate)
- Renovations/Alterations (not additions): \$1.50 / \$1,000 of project value
- Minimum Permit Fee: \$10

*square footage is calculated by finished floor space

How long in advance of starting my project should I apply for a permit?

Building permits are processed within approximately 3 business days. However, if your permit requires approvals from Department of Transportation or Department of Environment, their processing times are longer.

- Department of Transportation (driveways, close proximity to the road): Approximately 3 weeks
- Department of Environment (on site septic systems): Approximately 1 week from the date the Qualified Person (QP) submits their report.

Be sure to calculate in these extra times when planning to apply for your permit.

It's a Puppy Boom!

We are having a puppy boom and with so many new furry additions to Colchester this year, we wanted to extend a warm welcome! We hope everyone is enjoying their new family members and staying safe.

If you haven't tagged your dog yet, you can purchase one at any of the following locations:

- Central Nova Animal Hospital – 29 Main Street, Bible Hill
- Fundy Veterinarians – 6 Greenfield Road, Murray Siding
- Fundy Veterinarians – 21089 Highway 2, Shubenacadie
- Truro Veterinary Hospital – 165 Arthur Street, Truro
- Pilot's Doggie Daycare – 1205 Salmon River Road, Salmon River
- Cross Road Boarding Training and Behaviour – 10 Cross Road, Great Village
- The Store – 1171 Highway 311, North River
- Stay N Play Canine Centre – 214 Crossley Avenue, Truro
- Futureworx – 229 Main Street, Tatamagouche
- SPCA – 408 Industrial Avenue, Truro
- Colchester County Community Development Office – 1 Church Street, Truro



We put our tag renewal form in the November Newsletter instead of mailing them out this year and it seems to have been a success.

Missed it in the newsletter? No Problem! Visit our website at www.colchester.ca/animal-control and click on the Dog Registration Form to print your own; visit any of the local businesses listed above; or give us a call at 902-897-3170 and we would be happy to mail a form out to you.

Did you know that local businesses that sell our tags get a portion of the cost of the tag? We like to share the love and puppy visitor kisses.

This year's early bird draw winners are Brenda & Don Thiessen and Austin Muise, who purchased their tags before the January 10th deadline. Congratulations to our winners!

Recreation



Mayor's Challenge Curling Funspiel

Colchester Recreation hosted 13 teams at its Annual Mayor's Challenge Curling Funspiel on February 1, 2020. Congratulations to the winning team (left to right): Stevan Forbes, Brenda Forbes, Sandra Langille and Campbell Foote!

Plan Your Next Trail Adventure

Make trails part of your active outdoor adventures this Spring. With more than 150 km of walking, hiking and bicycling trails to explore, Colchester County has something for everyone. Walk to your heart's content beside seacoasts and salt marshes. Hike through gorges to waterfalls in the hills. Run like the wind through hemlocks in the park. Bicycle on routes where train whistles used to blow. Stroll beside wonderful wetlands. Relax by a shaded brook or a tidal bay.

Explore a trail to enrich your soul, exercise your body, and refresh your mind.

Plan your next trail adventure at www.colchester.ca/trails.



Cobequid Trail – Old Barns

Regional Parks Open May 9

Municipal staff are busy preparing the regional parks for regular operation which resumes on May 9. Why not add a visit to a municipal park to your list of things to do in 2020? Experience the spectacular, panoramic view of the Minas Basin at **Five Islands Lighthouse Park**. Stroll on the shaded paths along the river at **Stewiacke River Park**. At the **Fundy Discovery Site**, watch the tidal bore from the Cobequid Trail and explore the natural playground. At **Nelson Memorial Park** near Tatamagouche, ride your bicycle on the Butter Trail (part of the Great Trail). These parks feature picnic facilities, a playground, walking paths and washrooms. Visit www.colchester.ca/parks for directions and more information.



The Fundy Discovery Site playground is a lot of fun - with slides, swings, musical instruments, a sand kitchen and more!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2020

APRIL 19-25

**IT'S TIME TO APPLAUD
THIS COUNTRY'S VOLUNTEERS**



#NVW2020

From **April 19th to April 25th** communities across Canada will celebrate **National Volunteer Week**, a time to thank Canada's 12.7 million volunteers. If you are a volunteer – thank you! If you know someone who donates their time to help others and their community, please take a moment to thank them.

How to Nominate a Volunteer

Are you looking for a way to say a special “Thank You” to a volunteer? The Municipality encourages you to nominate volunteers - individuals, groups, youth, families and businesses - for an award during National Volunteer Week. Nomination forms can be picked up at Colchester Recreation (1 Church Street, Truro), or found online at <http://www.colchester.ca/volunteer-recognition>. **The nomination deadline is Friday, March 20, 2020.**

The Municipality of Colchester and the Town of Truro will host a Volunteer Award Ceremony on April 20, 2020. For more information about recognizing our volunteers, contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Supporting Healthy, Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces

Each Spring we remind residents to watch for signs like this one, posted at municipal parks, playgrounds and trails throughout Colchester County. The signs are a reminder not to smoke at these sites which fall under the Municipality of Colchester's Smoke Free Outdoor Recreational Spaces Policy. Thank you for your cooperation, as together we encourage healthy lifestyles and community wellness.



Spring is in the air! Get ready to **Step into Spring** with Colchester Recreation!

Step into Spring is Colchester Recreation's 8-week walking program. It is an easy and fun way to improve your activity level. Simply register for the program, wear a pedometer or fitness/activity tracker, record your daily step counts, and submit your weekly total to Colchester Recreation by email or phone. The registration fee (\$10 for a pedometer, \$5 if you have your own device) gets you a reusable bag and incentives to keep you

motivated. Send us your weekly step count total for a chance to win prizes each week!

Step into Spring begins March 28th and runs until May 25th. Registration begins March 23rd in Recreation Offices at the Municipality of Colchester, Town of Truro, Village of Bible Hill, and Town of Stewiacke. For more information contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or visit www.colchester.ca/spring.

Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: www.colchester.ca

Follow us on Twitter! @ColchesterWRM

Like us on Facebook! Colchester WRM

Colchester Balefill Facility

188 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Materials Recovery Facility

185 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Reminder: All visitors must report to the scalehouse prior to unloading materials. The scalehouse operator can accept cash, a personal cheque, or Interac as payment for disposal. The scalehouse is **not** equipped with a credit card machine. All loads must be tarped to prevent litter problems. Untarped loads will be subject to a \$20 surcharge.

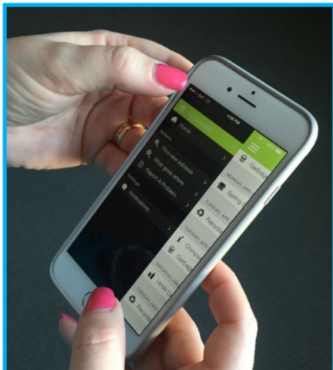
The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be **closed** on April 10th for Good Friday, April 13th for Easter Monday and Monday, May 18th for Victoria Day.

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY COLLECTION CHANGE NOTICE

Residents whose normal collection would have been scheduled for Good Friday April 10th – Your collection will take place on the PREVIOUS Monday, April 6th. Please refer to your waste collection schedule for details or download our FREE Colchester Waste app. Material must be curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day.

Blue Bags for Recyclables

Colchester County residents are asked to only use blue bags for curbside recyclables collection. This request is to assist the collection crews with easily identifying which bags are to be picked up for recycling. Since garbage, recyclables and compost are all placed out on the same day for collection, recyclables that are placed in blue bags help the drivers to determine which truck should pick up the materials.



Stay up to Date on Collection Changes When They Affect You

Want to know the moment collection changes affect your area? Sign up for a service alert message at www.colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling or download our free app and you will be notified by phone, email or Twitter the moment decisions affecting collection are made! No computer, tablet or smartphone? No problem! Call our Helpline at 902-895-4777 and we will set this service up for you.

Saving Landfill Space and Making Resources

In April 2019, the tipping fees for construction and demolition waste were changed. Mixed loads were charged \$75 per metric tonne and sorted single stream materials such as wood, metal, shingles and drywall were charged \$35 per metric tonne. The dedicated materials enable solid waste operations staff to divert them from landfill and market/process them as resources.

427 metric tonnes of asphalt shingles were diverted and processed. The asphalt flake was used as fuel for energy. The sand has been used for traction and in the Spring assessed for dust reduction on the road to the landfill cell. All nails were removed from the process by a magnet.

15 metric tonnes of clean, unpainted drywall was processed with the green cart organics. Drywall is made up of calcium sulfate, better known as gypsum. Gypsum works as a soil amendment, conditioner and fertilizer to improve the soil and our overall compost product.

1,100 metric tonnes of clean wood was ground and processed to be made into wood pellets for fuel for energy.

238 metric tonnes of scrap metals have been collected and diverted for sale. The scrap is then separated by metal and alloy type, graded and processed to meet the chemical and physical requirements of the mills, foundries, and smelters throughout the world. The purchasers use it to manufacture new products.

Public Works

Did You Know?

- Recent changes to the Sewer By-law require back-flow check valves to be installed in all building service connections.
- Sump pumps should never be connected to the sanitary sewer system! These types of connections cause our piping and treatment plants to become overwhelmed during rain events and could lead to sewer back ups.
- Even though a product is labelled “flushable”, this simply means it can fit through the opening of your toilet. Please be aware that flushing certain products down the toilet not only poses a risk to our sewage treatment plant, but also to our main line piping, as well as your own piping leaving your house.

Feeding Wildlife - A Cause for Concern

Wildlife fed in residential areas lose their natural fear of people and become vulnerable, while younger animals may not learn the skills required to adapt in the natural surroundings. “Backyard” feeding often means animals travel near and/or across roadways which can be dangerous, not only to the animals, but for drivers and passengers of motor vehicles.

Please refrain from feeding wildlife. For more information, visit <https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/feeding-wildlife.asp>.



What Do I Need to Know Before Buying a Home?

If you are thinking of buying a new home, you may want to consider the following before finalizing your transaction:

Who owns the road I will use to access my house?

Roads can either be owned by the Province, by the County or by private individuals or companies. Who owns the road will affect how it is plowed and maintained, and could affect your services such as garbage pick up, bus routes, and access by emergency vehicles. Call the County Office to find out more on road ownership before buying.

Does my home have access to water or a sewer system?

If your home is using well water, or is located outside of a sewer serviced area, then any related questions can be answered by Nova Scotia Environment at (902) 893-5880. If you are located in Debert or Tatamagouche, you may have access to a public water supply. The County also operates several public sewer systems in areas such as Tatamagouche, Debert, Great Village, Brookfield, Hilden, Valley, Bible Hill, Salmon River and Truro Heights. Contact us to find out more about your water or sewer connection.

For additional information, please contact the Public Works Office at 902-897-3175.

Where is my organics green cart, I can't find it?

If there isn't a green cart at the home you are purchasing, you may need to purchase a new one from the Municipality or make it a part of your real estate transaction to have one replaced.

I have a green cart, but it is broken?

Some of the older green carts are starting to break and need replacement or repairs. Contact us to learn about your options.

Where can I get a small kitchen compost bin?

You can purchase a mini bin from the County Tax Office, 1 Church Street, Truro.

How do I find out when garbage collection takes place and what are the rules?

You can download the free Colchester Waste App, visit our website or call the Colchester Solid Waste Helpline.

For additional information, please contact the Colchester Solid Waste Helpline at 902-895-4777.

The house I want to buy has a second unit or in-law suite, is it legal?

Permits are always required to add apartments and in-law suites to existing homes. Contact the Building Inspection Office and check if proper permits were taken, or if your area is zoned for additional units, before purchasing the property.

A house is and always was a house, right?

Sheds and garages sometimes are turned into homes without the required permits. The cost of bringing these buildings up to code can be substantial and is one that is the responsibility of the current property owner. Be sure to check with your lawyer before purchasing a property.

Can I keep animals on my property?

Some areas in Colchester County require large setbacks for buildings and fenced areas to house animals that cannot be met due to lot size. Be sure to speak with the Development Officer to see if the home you are considering can meet these setbacks.

Can I expand my house or build other buildings on my property?

Zoned areas in Colchester County may have increased setbacks compared to the fire safety setbacks required under the building code. To review the setbacks needed for any planned addition or change to the house, please contact a Building Inspector and Development Officer to ensure you have the space required for an addition.

Can I run a business out of my home?

Some areas in Colchester County do not permit businesses, home occupations, or commercial uses. Be sure to speak with the Development Officer to see if you can utilize the home in the way you are planning.

What are the rules surrounding dog licensing in Colchester County?

It is the law in Colchester County to register your dog annually for a fee of \$12.00. Tags can be purchased at numerous locations throughout the County. A list of tag vendors can be found on page 5.

For additional information, please contact the Community Development Office at 902-897-3170

Are there outstanding taxes on the house I want to buy?

For a fee of only \$25, a tax certificate can provide you with information on outstanding taxes, utility account balances or liens on your future property. If you are buying a new home that has an existing water connection, be sure that a final meter reading has been recorded by the water utility before taking ownership of the new property.

How much will my taxes cost and when are taxes due?

A residential and commercial base tax rate is applied to the assessed value of all taxable properties. The majority of properties in Colchester also have area tax rates depending on the location and services available. Please contact the tax office if you have any questions in regard to your property taxes.

For more information, please contact the Tax Office at 902-897-3150.

Employee Recognition

The Municipality's Service Recognition Policy acknowledges employees reaching service milestones. Employees recognized for years of service to the end of 2019 were:

5 Years: Gladys Anderson, Scott Fraser, Suzanne Graham, Todd Jones, Gerald Lapatha, Heather Maddigan and Doris Wile

10 Years: Douglas Carter, James Cook, Ashley Crowe, Kelly Gratto-McCarthy, Richard Haight, Michael MacKinnon, Meaghan MacLean and Tamara Marchbank

15 Years: Clay Drummond, Mark MacCallum, Hilary Paquet, Corey Reid and Terri Robblee

20 Years: Pam Macintosh and Darlyne Proctor

25 Years: Mannie Withrow



Staff who attended the 2019 Service Recognition Ceremony held in December.



1 Church Street
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 3Z5

www.colchester.ca

Toll Free (in NS):
1-866-728-5144

Reception - 902-897-3160,
902-897-3150, 902-897-3175
Administration
Tax Office
Public Works

Community Development - 902-897-3170
Building Inspection
Development Officer
Animal Control
Planning

Property Information - 902-897-3178
Colchester Recreation - 902-897-3185
recreation@colchester.ca

Materials Recovery Facility and
Regional Bafefill Facility - 902-897-0450

Waste & Recycling Helpline:
902-895-4777
helpline@colchester.ca

Fax Numbers

Courthouse Building

Administration - 902-843-4066
Community Development - 902-843-4061
Finance / Tax Office - 902-843-4067
Human Resources - 902-843-4063
Information Services - 902-843-4068
Property Information - 902-843-4062
Engineering/Public Works - 902-843-4064
Recreation Services - 902-843-4065

External Locations

Regional Sewage
Treatment Plant - 902-897-0335
Public Works Building - 902-895-5251
Water Utilities - 902-641-3102
Materials Recovery Facility/
Waste Reduction - 902-897-0453

Municipality of Colchester

Finance

Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program

SUBMISSION DEADLINE - MAY 8, 2020

Residential property owners may be eligible for an exemption on their 2020/2021 property taxes, up to a maximum of \$332.45. To qualify, applicants must own and occupy the property as their principal residence and fall into one of the categories in the table below:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Gross Income</u>	<u>Exemption</u>
Single	Less than \$26,406	\$199.46
Family of 2	Less than \$34,877	\$265.96
Family of 3 or more	Less than \$41,852	\$332.45

Gross Income refers to the total gross income from all sources for the calendar year ending December 31, 2019. This must include the income of all members of the household, except full-time students. You should not include income from the following sources:

1. War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada);
2. Veterans Affairs Canada Pension;
3. Child Tax Benefit; or
4. GST/HST Rebate

Application forms will automatically be mailed to last years eligible applicants.
If you have not received your application form by April 1st, please call 902-897-3162.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must reapply annually. If you did not receive the exemption last year, you may obtain an application from the Municipal Tax Office, 1 Church Street, Truro, or by calling 902-897-3162.

For income verification purposes, please bring your 2019 **INCOME TAX RETURN**, which you submit to Revenue Canada. **If you have filed via telephone through the File My Return service, please request a proof of income statement Option 'C' Print to provide as proof of income.**

Notice of Assessments will NOT be accepted.

Tax Sale

The next Tax Sale is scheduled for May 5, 2020. The sale will take place at 10:00 am in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office. The Tax Sale will be advertised in the local newspapers on Thursday, April 2, 2020 and Thursday, April 30, 2020. For more information about the Tax Sale, please visit our website at www.colchester.ca/tax-sales or call the Tax Office at 902-897-3162.