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Volume 25 Issue 3

### Beware of 'Flushable' Wipes

During this time of COVID, we are all using cleaning supplies more than ever. These supplies include disinfecting and cleaning wipes. Over the last few months, we have been finding large amounts of these wipes in our sewer system. Please be aware that 'flushable' wipes should not be flushed down your toilet. These wipes can get trapped in your own plumbing and lead to expensive plumbing bills and home repairs. They can also get trapped in the piping under our streets and cause major sewer backups. Always stash flushable wipes in your trash!



### From the Mayor's Desk

The Municipality of Colchester is concluding its 2016-2020 term of Council this fall, when a new Council will be elected to office. Those leaving office are Councillor Bill Masters, who served Colchester County from 2000 to 2020 for 20 years; and Councillor Ron Cavanaugh, who served Colchester from 1988 to 2020 (less 3 years), for 29 years. Our Municipality owes them a debt of gratitude for their dedication, hard work and perseverance. Thank you both for all you have done for Colchester County.

Colchester County has realized two major projects in the last few weeks: First, the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark designation; and second, the Rural Broadband Project initiative.

The [Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark](#) designation came after a lot of time, hard work, and sheer determination. The announcement was made July 10, 2020, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Executive Board in Paris and is anticipated to be a catalyst for tourism growth in Nova Scotia. This is an accomplishment for which we can be very proud.

In 2016, the first community and organization meetings took place along the shore, as this venture needed to be a community based initiative. The Mi'kmaq community believed in the initiative and agreed to become part of it. The boundaries reach from the Fundy Discovery Site in Lower Truro, to Apple River in Cumberland County. What started as a relatively small role for Colchester has since evolved to what is now a 50/50 partnership agreement with the Municipality of Cumberland, an unprecedented municipal partnership of which we are very proud.



As a UNESCO Global Geopark, the Cliffs of Fundy joins four others in Canada and 160 internationally. We are now on the world stage.

Colchester County, again in partnership with Cumberland County, has embarked in one of the largest optic fibre-based [high speed internet](#) networks in rural Canada. For details on this exciting project, see the article on page 3.

[The Fundy Discovery Site](#) in Lower Truro has seen significant change and stakeholder responses have been extremely supportive. The site has new branding, including the logo, site signage and website design, dyke trail, outdoor amphitheatre, landscaping, seating, picnic areas, a natural playground, road paving, new security, and improvements to the Visitor Information Centre, with more improvements to come.

Over the past four years, the [Debert Business Park](#) has been at the centre of Colchester's economic development activities. Council formed the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee, which will advise Council on the Park's many objectives. Currently, there are 50 businesses with four large distribution centres located in the Park. Further, the [Debert Airport](#) is being upgraded and a business plan and marketing materials are being developed to boost economic activity. Colchester staff have been collaborating with Stanfield International on complementary development. Council sees both the Park and Airport as positive avenues for economic activity.

The [Truro-Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity \(TCPEP\)](#) is an organization in partnership with local businesses through the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, the Municipality of Colchester, the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, Millbrook First Nation and the Province of Nova Scotia, to drive business growth and development in the Colchester region and to work collaboratively to achieve mutual goals. We work together to support and promote programs and educational opportunities, business attraction and retention, marketing, and regional development.

There are many more initiatives and priorities Council has identified, carried out, and is planning for the future. Over the last four years, Council has recognized opportunities with partnerships and for funding, and had the flexibility to adapt to new priorities. Thank you to Council and Staff for a productive and positive four years.

Colchester County has also faced many challenges: a global pandemic; the worst mass shooting in Canadian history; local connections to those lost in a military helicopter crash; a missing three-year old boy; and, a Snowbird crash leading to the death of another fellow Nova Scotian. To say our communities have been through a lot lately is a considerable understatement. Any one of these tragedies is a lot to deal with, but when all are combined, our communities have been pushed into extreme uncharted territory both operationally, and even more so, emotionally.

Although we are still processing the loss and effects of these senseless tragedies, we can take comfort in the way our community has responded; the way it has come together; and in the support we have received from around the world, across our great nation, and throughout Nova Scotia. These are reassuring signs of hope amidst what has been a very dark and challenging time. Our hearts will always go out to the families who lost loved ones, to the RCMP family of officers, and to friends and neighbours. They will remain in our prayers. We will never forget.

Colchester County continues to offer support as we move forward together.

Kind regards to all,  
Christine Blair, Mayor

## **Ambitious Rural Broadband Project Set for Cumberland and Colchester**

One of the largest optic fibre-based high-speed internet networks in rural Canada is being built in the Municipalities of Colchester and Cumberland. Agreements between the municipalities and Xplornet Communications Inc. were signed in August with unanimous approvals of Councils.

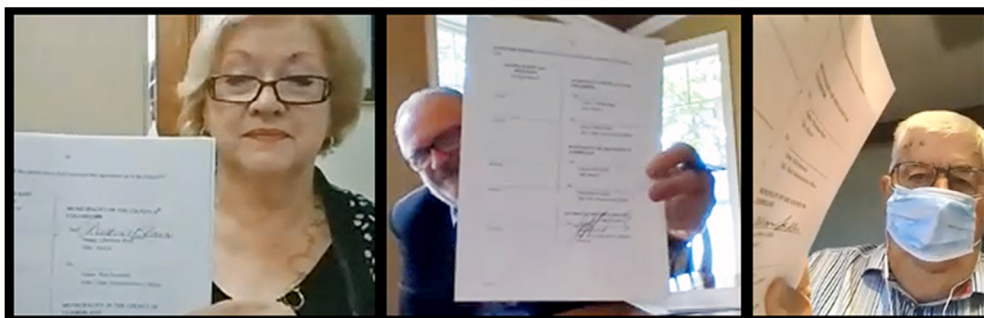
The project will cost \$62.1 million, with Xplornet investing \$35 million in the region, the Province contributing \$21.1 million and the two municipalities paying a combined \$6 million over the next three to five years. Colchester's share will be \$2,672,400 to reflect the amount of fibre in this jurisdiction. The infrastructure will be Open Access for other internet service providers to rent wholesale capacity.

The network will consist of 19 towers, 36-50 small cells for fixed-wireless and 673 kilometres of optic fibre, including 501 km of new fibre. It will have capacity to serve 100% of civic addresses in the combined Counties, including 24,400 addresses currently not covered, at 50 mbps and above. Xplornet will offer 100 mbps service to 22,500 currently underserved addresses and 50 mbps satellite for the remaining 1,900. Unlimited data packages priced at \$99 will be available. Xplornet and the Municipalities will work toward increasing coverage in locations where line-of-sight obstacles impair access.

Councillors Tom Taggart and Mike Gregory championed rural broadband in recent years and found support from the whole Council. Council made it a strategic priority, forming a joint committee with Cumberland to take action.

A unique aspect of the project is acquisition by Cumberland and Colchester of the use of two pairs of 'dark fibres' (optic fibres for exclusive use) on the entire new network. This will position the Municipalities to partner on innovative ventures in coming years.

The project is well underway, with new wireless service offered in many areas. Network completion is expected within three years. For more information on the project, please visit [www.colchester.ca](http://www.colchester.ca).



*Colchester Mayor Christine Blair, Xplornet Vice-President Jeff Burlock and Cumberland Warden Al Gillis sign the Cumberland-Colchester Xplornet Communications Inc. Rural Broadband Agreement via Zoom on August 21, 2020.*

## Municipal Election 2020

The Municipality of Colchester will be holding Elections for the Office of Mayor, six of eleven Council Seats plus a member of the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* (CSAP) in October. Candidates for the remaining five seats on Council have not been contested and therefore have been won by acclamation.

The following candidates are running for Mayor, Councillor or as a member of the CSAP. Voting will be conducted using the traditional method of in-person voting using paper ballots:

<u>Mayor</u>	Christine Blair *	<u>District 5</u>	Colleen Doucette	<u>District 9</u>	Marie Benoit
	Bob Taylor		Lloyd Gibbs *		Bob Pash *
			Tim Johnson		Susan Taylor
<u>District 2</u>	Heather Boyd	<u>District 7</u>	Mike Gregory *	<u>District 11</u>	Peter McCracken
	Laurie Sandeson		John Sellers		Wade Parker *
<u>District 4</u>	Mike Cooper *	<u>District 8</u>	Stan Hampton	<u>CSAP</u>	Jerome Breau *
	John Vissers		Edwin MacQuarrie		Jessica Hinton
			Lisa Patton		

\* Indicates that the candidate is the incumbent

The following candidates have won their seats by acclamation and therefore there is no requirement to hold a vote to fill these positions:

<u>District 1</u>	Eric Boutilier	<u>District 6</u>	Karen MacKenzie
<u>District 3</u>	Geoff Stewart	<u>District 10</u>	Tom Taggart

### Election Dates

Regular Polls (Election Day): 8:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Saturday, October 17, 2020

Advance Polls: 12 noon to 8:00 pm  
Thursday, October 8, 2020  
Tuesday October 13, 2020  
Wednesday October 14, 2020  
Thursday, October 15, 2020

### Advance Polls

All Electors are eligible to vote at the Advance Polls in their corresponding District. To reduce congestion at the Polls on Election Day, voting in advance of Election Day has been extended from two to four days. Electors are encouraged to cast their ballots during this early voting period where voter crowds should be smaller. There is also

an Advanced Poll station at the Municipal Office, 1 Church Street in Truro, where all eligible Electors in Colchester can cast their ballots on the Advance Poll dates.

### Who Can Vote?

To vote you must be 18 years of age by October 8, 2020, a Canadian citizen, a resident of Nova Scotia on or before April 8, 2020 and live in the Municipality of Colchester on or before October 8, 2020.

To be eligible to vote for a member of the CSAP, an Elector must meet the above criteria plus they must either have French as their first language learned and still understood; or have received their primary school instruction in Canada in a French-first-language program; or have a child that has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in a French-first-language program.

### Vote by Proxy

If an Elector is unable to vote at the polls on Election Day due to illness, physical disability or absence from the Municipality, the Elector may authorize another voter to cast a ballot on their behalf. An Application to Vote by Proxy Form must be completed and approved by the Municipal Returning Officer at any time until 5:00 pm on Friday, October 9, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at [www.colchester.ca/election-2020](http://www.colchester.ca/election-2020) or by contacting the Returning Office, at 902-890-6780 or 902-897-3182 or by email at [gwheeler@colchester.ca](mailto:gwheeler@colchester.ca) or [dgraham@colchester.ca](mailto:dgraham@colchester.ca).

### Covid-19 Mitigation

The Municipality will follow Public Health Guidelines and procedures, such as social distancing, sanitizing work areas and the wearing of masks. The province announced that masks (non-medical) will be mandatory in most indoor places starting July 31, 2020. Electors entering a Poll will be required to wear a non-medical mask. Masks will be available for Electors who arrive at the Polls without a mask.

### Voter Notification Cards

Voter Notification Cards have been mailed to all eligible voters. If you did not receive your Voter Notification Card, are a new resident of Colchester County, have recently moved, or the information on your card is incorrect, please contact the Returning Office at 902-890-6780 or 902-897-3182. Please note that an individual can only correct or make changes to their own Elector information.

Please bring your [Voter Notification Card](#) with you to the Advanced Poll or on Election Day. If you have not received your Card or do not have it with you when you vote, you will still be able to cast your ballot.

### Election Workers Needed

The Municipality will require up to 150 individuals to work at the Polls across Colchester County on Election Day (October 17<sup>th</sup>). If you are interested in working please contact the Returning Office, at 902-890-6780 or 902-897-3182 or by email at [gwheeler@colchester.ca](mailto:gwheeler@colchester.ca) or [dgraham@colchester.ca](mailto:dgraham@colchester.ca).

Visit [www.colchester.ca/election-2020](http://www.colchester.ca/election-2020) for important Municipal Election updates!

For a list of polling station locations, please see the next page.



District	Polling Division - Community	Location
1	1A – Brookside, Bible Hill (West)	Bible Hill Fire Hall
	1B – Vimy Court Bible Hill	Vimy Court
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 1</b>	<b>Bible Hill Fire Hall</b>
2	2A - Truro Heights	Cobequid Fire Hall #1
	2B - Lower Truro	Cobequid Fire Hall #1
	2C - Old Barns, Clifton, Beaver Brook, Princeport, Green Oaks	Cobequid Fire Hall #2
	2D - Green Creek, Pleasant Valley, Shortts Lake	Brookfield Sportsplex
	2E – Riverside, Fort Ellis	Stewiacke Community Centre
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 2</b>	<b>Cobequid Fire Hall # 1</b>
3	3A - Hilden	Brookfield Fire Hall
	3B - Brookfield	Brookfield Sportsplex
	3C – Alton, Brentwood, Forest Glen	Stewiacke Community Centre
	3D – Elk Court Brookfield	Elk Court
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 3</b>	<b>Brookfield Sportsplex</b>
4	4A - Eastville, Burnside, Pembroke, Newton Mills, Upper Stewiacke, Meadowvale, Otter Brook, Crossroads	Upper Stewiacke Fire Hall
	4B - Cloverdale, Birch Hill, South Branch, Middle Stewiacke, Halfway Brook	Middle Stewiacke Rec Centre
	4C - West St. Andrews, Wittenburg, Lanesville, East Stewiacke, MacKay Siding	Wittenburg Baptist Church
	4D - Gays River, Pine Grove, Shubenacadie East, Coldstream	Wittenburg Baptist Church
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 4</b>	<b>Middle Stewiacke Rec Centre</b>
5	5A - Salmon River, Murray Siding, Harmony, Camden	Salmon River Fire Hall
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 5</b>	<b>Salmon River Fire Hall</b>
6	6A - Greenfield, Manganese Mines, East Mountain, Valley (North)	Crossroads Baptist Church
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 6</b>	<b>Bible Hill Fire Hall</b>
7	7A - Mattatall Lake, Lake Road, French River, Bayhead, West Tatamagouche	Tatamagouche Fire Hall
	7B - Tatamagouche, Barrachois, Sand Point	Tatamagouche Fire Hall
	7C - Waldegrave, Waughs River, Denmark, Middleton, Keble, Brule Point, Brule, Brule Shore	Tatamagouche Fire Hall

7	7D - East New Annan, Central New Annan, Byers Lake, Millbrook, Debert Lake, West New Annan, Tatamagouche Mountain, Kavanaugh Mills, Warwick Mountain, Oliver, New Truro Rd	Tatamagouche Fire Hall
	7E - West Earltown, Earltown, East Earltown, Balfron, Balmoral Mills, The Falls	Earltown Community Centre
	7F - Willow Lodge Tatamagouche	Willow Lodge
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 7</b>	<b>Tatamagouche Fire Hall</b>
8	8A - Onslow Mountain	North River Fire Hall
	8B - Upper Onslow, North River	North River Fire Hall
	8C - Nuttby, McCallum Settlement, Upper North River, Central North River, Upper Brookside	North River Fire Hall
	8D - Riversdale, Kemptown, Upper Kemptown	Kemptown Community Centre
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 8</b>	<b>North River Fire Hall</b>
9	9A - East Folly Mountain, Debert	Admin Building Debert Business Park
	9B - Lower Onslow, Central Onslow	Onslow Belmont Fire Hall
	9C - Belmont, Moose Lake, Crowes Mills	Onslow Belmont Fire Hall
	9D - Debert Court Debert	Debert Court
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 9</b>	<b>Admin Building Debert Business Park</b>
10	10A - Lynn, Lower Five Islands, Five Islands	Five Islands Fire Hall
	10B - Simpson Lake, McCormack Lake, Lower Economy, Carrs Brook, Economy, Upper Economy	Economy Recreation Centre
	10C - Little Bass River, Bass River, Castlereagh, Montrose, Five Houses, Portapique	Bass River Fire Hall
	10D - Lornevale, Londonderry, Hart Lake, Folly Lake, Folly Mountain, Londonderry Station, East Village	Londonderry Community Centre
	10E - Highland Village, Great Village, Glenholme, Little Dyke	Great Village Fire Hall
	10F - Lower Debert, Masstown	Masstown United Church
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 10</b>	<b>Great Village Fire Hall</b>
11	11A - Bible Hill (East), Valley (South)	Colchester Christian Academy
	<b>ADVANCED POLL – District 11</b>	<b>Bible Hill Fire Hall</b>
All	<b>ADVANCED POLL – All of Colchester County</b>	<b>Municipality Office/Court House, 1 Church St, Truro</b>

## Recreation

Like **Colchester County Recreation** on Facebook and follow **@MunColRec** on Twitter for more information about our upcoming programs!



*Cobequid Trail, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus*

### Autumn Trail Adventures

Fall is a wonderful time of the year to get outside and explore the trails in Colchester County. Enjoy the vibrant forest colors! Visit [www.colchester.ca/trails](http://www.colchester.ca/trails) and [www.nstrails.com/trailguide](http://www.nstrails.com/trailguide) to plan your next trail adventure. Please remember to practice physical distancing. On narrow paths, please yield to passing visitors.

### Municipal Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

#### Upcoming application deadlines:

Funding for Insurance for Non-Profit Groups – October 23, 2020

Community Trail Funding Program – January 29, 2021

Grants to Non-Profit Organizations – January 31, 2021

Community Park Funding Program – February 26, 2021

Please visit [www.colchester.ca/rec-grants](http://www.colchester.ca/rec-grants) for program details and application forms.

### Women's Recreational Hockey

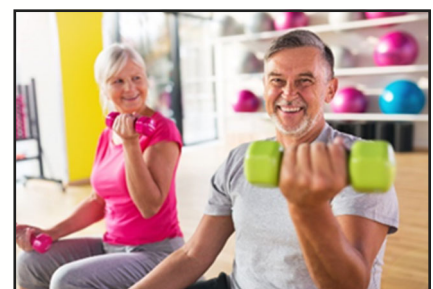
For current information on the **Babes on Blades Program** and the **Colchester 4 on 4 Women's Hockey**, please follow Colchester Recreation on Facebook.

### Art Acquisition

Please visit [www.colchester.ca/art-acquisition](http://www.colchester.ca/art-acquisition) or call 902-897-3185 for updated information on the Municipality of Colchester's Annual Art Acquisition.

### Senior Fitness

Senior Fitness Classes began on September 8<sup>th</sup> and continue every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30-11:30 am at the Stewiacke Community Centre. There is a \$2.00 drop-in fee. Participants will take part in an hour of body weight and light weight resistance exercises lead by a certified fitness instructor. Covid-19 restrictions are in place. All participants are required to arrive wearing a mask. For more information, contact the Town of Stewiacke Recreation at 902-639-2111.





## River Access at Stewiacke River Park



Many visitors to Stewiacke River Park have been enjoying the new stairs and floating dock which were installed in July, improving access to the river. The Municipality of Colchester recognizes the financial support of the Province of Nova Scotia for this project and is pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to develop our cultural resources.



## Volunteer Recognition

Are you looking for a way to say Thank You to a volunteer or community group? Why not nominate them for the recognition they deserve?

The Municipality of Colchester promotes volunteerism by encouraging communities to nominate volunteers, groups, youth, families, and businesses and by emphasizing the recognition of all volunteers. Please consider nominating volunteers in your area. Nomination forms are available online at [www.colchester.ca/volunteer-recognition](http://www.colchester.ca/volunteer-recognition).



## Municipal Regional Parks

This fall, why not plan to visit one of our Municipal Regional Parks? They feature picnic facilities, walking paths, playgrounds, and river or ocean views. Sail away on the ship playground at Five Islands Lighthouse Park, bicycle on the Butter Trail through Nelson Memorial Park as you enjoy views of Tatamagouche Bay, or enjoy the fall colors while picnicking or walking along the trails in Stewiacke River Park.

The Regional Parks are serviced until October 12, 2020, although the public is welcome to use the parks for walking and snowshoeing throughout the fall and winter. For more information, please visit [www.colchester.ca/parks](http://www.colchester.ca/parks) or phone 902-897-3180.



*Nelson Memorial Park walking trail*

## Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: [www.colchester.ca](http://www.colchester.ca)

Twitter: @ColchesterWRM

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 4:00pm

**Reminder:** All visitors must report to the scale house prior to unloading materials. The scale house operator can accept cash, a personal cheque, or Interac as payment for disposal. The scale house is **not** equipped with a credit card machine. Everyone visiting the site must wear a mask and practice safe social distancing when unloading materials. All loads must be tarped to prevent litter problems. Untarped loads will be subject to a \$20 surcharge. Please remain in your vehicles when you are on the weigh scale.

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be closed on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving Day and Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for Remembrance Day.



## Big Thank You For Community Clean Ups

We want to thank the residents of all ages that have participated recently in community clean ups. This year, due to Covid, the Solid Waste Department did not have summer students to assist with roadside clean ups. The Adopt A Highway Program had a late start but The Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up continued throughout the season. We had one-person clean ups and community groups coming together within their own bubbles. We are so pleased with your enthusiasm and good will. If your group or family participate in a beach, trail or roadside clean up, we would love to hear from you and promote your awesome efforts on our Facebook page!

## Safe Medical and Sharps Disposal

Since March, residents have been asked to keep their expired medicines and needles at home due to Covid-19. Still, not all pharmacies are ready to receive these materials.

This has raised concerns for the public and for our workers safety. Medical waste and sharps do not belong in residential curbside programs. They are not to be put out for collection in the garbage nor recycling. Some residents have been directed to place sharps in a rigid plastic container as the pharmacies do not have enough safe sharps containers to distribute. Again, this has workers concerned that it could mistakenly end up at the curbside and be transported to our solid waste facilities, where staff sort materials by hand off a fast-moving conveyor belt.

The Waste Reduction Staff has teamed up with the Northern Healthy Connections Society and hosted a free sharps drop off program. 80 kgs of needles were dropped off. There have been many requests for more opportunities to safely dispose of sharps, as residents are concerned with storing them in their homes.

**The Next Safe Sharps Free Drop Off Program** will take place at the Shoppers Drug Mart on Robie Street, Truro from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm on Seniors Day, Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and during Waste Reduction Week at Lawtons Pharmacy on Willow Street, Truro from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Used Sharps Free Public Drop Off

**Thursday September 24th 2020 - Shoppers Drug Mart Parking Lot**  
**Saturday October 24th 2020 - Lawtons Parking Lot**  
**Hours of operation : 10:30 am to 2:30 pm**

**For ONE DAY only residents will be able to dispose of their sharps already in rigid containers for FREE.**

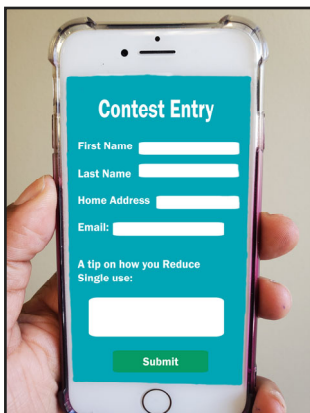
**This program does not include used Sharps from medical, dental or veterinary clinics, home care professionals or farms.**

**Be Smart with your Sharps.**

**For more information call the Helpline at 902-895-4777**



### Contest Reminder



Our twelve week online contest will be ending during Waste Reduction Week (October 19-24). To enter, all you have to do is go to our website at [www.colchester.ca/collection-schedules](http://www.colchester.ca/collection-schedules) and sign up for "a reminder". Click the trophy icon and fill in the form. Leave a tip on how you can reduce single use products and submit. That's it! The best part is that now you will receive notification of any service interruptions, education campaigns and waste reduction events that are taking place in your community.

### Fall Compost

Due to Covid-19, only bulk compost is available for sale this year. Compost can be loaded into your truck or trailer by our loader. Compost is available Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am to 11:30pm. The price is \$35 per metric tonne. You will be weighed empty and full and charged accordingly.





### **Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates to Remember**

**Location:**

Clean Harbors, 640 MacElmon Road, Debert,  
Exit 13, Highway 104

**Remaining 2020 Dates of Operation:**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

October 17<sup>th</sup> - mobile event at the Economy Fire Hall  
November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Hours of Operation:**

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

This FREE service is for residents of the Municipality of Colchester and the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke.

### **Reminder – Two Large Item Pickup in Colchester County All Year Long!**

In Colchester County, each household can place two large bulky items curbside on their regular collection day for pick up. These household items could include things such as a couch, a chair, a table, a freezer, etc. These bulky items are picked up by a separate collection truck. The regular collection driver makes a note of the bulky item location and forwards the information to the bulky waste collector. If it is not collected on your allotted day it will be picked up the following business day.

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## **A Message from the New RCMP Staff Sergeant**

Hello,

I am very honoured to be the new District Commander for the Colchester District RCMP.

I began my RCMP career here in Nova Scotia where I was born and raised. After spending time working in both Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, I am extremely happy to be home.

As District Commander, one of the first things that I noticed in Colchester County is how much the members care about the community they serve and their dedication to the job. Colchester is a large District and is one of the busiest in the Province with its call volume and geographical area.

Members in Colchester continue to focus on priorities such as road safety and reducing serious injury and fatal collisions on our roadways. Crime reduction is another priority as we continue to focus our efforts on making our communities safer. This year, members in Colchester County are finding unique ways to connect with members of the community, including educating youth and seniors on important topics such as cybercrime and internet safety.

I look forward to working with members of the community to maintain and build on the positive relationships the Colchester District RCMP has with the Police Advisory Board, Council, local businesses and partners and all citizens of Colchester County.

Stay Safe,

Staff Sergeant Curtis MacKinnon



## Animal Control

### The Importance of Leashes and Scooping



It is important for both you and your canine companion to remain active even though the days are getting shorter. With this comes the concern of owners not having control of their dogs. When off your property, your dog(s) must be on a leash.

The Municipality has many wonderful walking trails to be enjoyed by everyone. When out on the trails all dogs, regardless of size or temperament, are to be on leash and under complete control by their owners at all times.

Some people, as well as some dogs, do not enjoy dogs charging towards them or getting in their personal space. When a dog is out of their yard and off leash, they are deemed "Running at Large". Running at large is an offence of the Municipal By-law and can carry a minimum fine of \$348.95.

While on a walk, cleaning up after your pet is something that is not only sanitary but responsible and respectful to others. Pets can surprisingly create a lot of waste and with Colchester County containing just under 12,000 dogs, it is everyone's responsibility to help keep public areas, such as sidewalks, parks and trails, clean. After cleaning up after your pet, used bags need to be placed in the garbage; not in compost bins, hung in trees, or left on the sidewalk. Picking up after your pet also includes proper disposal.

## Public Works

### Water Utility Notices

Our Water Utility Staff sometimes carry out pipe repairs or system flushing which can lead to interruptions in water service, or even short periods of dirty water. If you are a customer of the Tatamagouche or Debert Water Utility, be sure to sign up for AlertTC to get notice of any work that may affect your water service.

For more information on AlertTC, and how to sign up, see the article on page 14.

### Attention Industrial and Commercial Water Customers

If you are a large water user serviced by the Debert or Tatamagouche Water Utility, please remember to let us know if you are using large volumes of water for fire pump testing or sprinkler flushing. Call the Public Works Office at 902-897-3175 with at least 24 hours notice.

### Protect Yourself From Sewer Backups

Sometimes, when crews are power cleaning the sewer lines, or when pipe blockages occur, sewage can flow up a lateral and back into private property. Protect yourself from the damage of sewer backups by installing a back-flow check valve! A back-flow check valve can be installed by your plumber, in a new or existing home, and is designed to stop sewage from coming back into the home from the main sewer line.





### Have you subscribed yet?

When subscribed to Alert Truro Colchester you receive important notifications by phone, text, or email (you choose) when emergencies affect your community. Subscribers can also choose to receive advisories like those relating to water utilities, road closures, or other community updates.

With storm season fast approaching, keep you and your loved ones safe. Visit [www.alerttc.ca](http://www.alerttc.ca) or call 902-956-3239 to subscribe and be “in the know” when it matters most.

### Community Energy & Emissions Plan

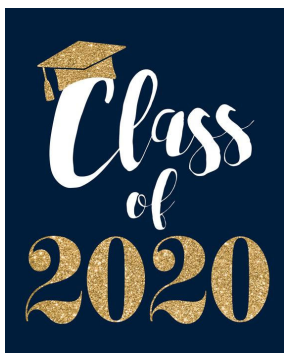
The Municipality of Colchester is taking action on climate change! Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels (such as oil, gas, and coal) are the main cause of climate change and global warming. Colchester is one of hundreds of municipalities across Canada who are striving to reduce emissions to prevent the impacts of climate change.

Staff at the Municipality of Colchester, along with the consulting firm Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG), are currently working on a *Community Energy & Emissions Plan*, which will set targets for reducing carbon emissions in the community and propose actions to meet those targets. The Plan will be an ambitious strategy for decreasing Colchester’s dependence on fossil fuels and moving toward a more efficient, affordable, and resilient energy future.

Starting in October, the Municipality will be engaging the public to get your input on the Community Energy & Emissions Plan! If you care about your community or the environment, then you have something valuable to contribute. Keep an eye out on municipal social media pages, our website, newspapers, and local radio stations for opportunities to participate!

For more information or to be placed on a contact list, reach out to Joanna Burris, Sustainability Planner for the Municipality of Colchester, at 902-897-3168 or [jbarris@colchester.ca](mailto:jbarris@colchester.ca).

### Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



Through the Municipality’s Scholarship Program, scholarships are awarded annually to high school students residing in Colchester who are planning to further their educations. Scholarships are awarded to students who are enrolled in Bachelor or Trade Programs.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the following students received scholarships: Margaret Hogan and Bryanna Cole from Tatamagouche Regional Academy; Bailey Hodgson and Alecia Brown from South Colchester Academy; Matthew Jones, Allison Murphy and Jason O’Brien-Fisher from Cobequid Educational Centre; and Alara Earle from École acadienne de Truro.



## Pedestrian Bridge

Since March of this year, COWI Engineering from Halifax have been hired to design a pedestrian/active transportation bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site. This is the latest site project priority, connecting the NS Blue Route from Onslow to Wallace on the north side of the Salmon River, to the Cobequid Trail system on the south side, and will also serve as viewing platform for visitors to watch the tidal bore. Located next to one of the busiest traffic corridors in the province, the impressive iconic design is



sure to establish a new landmark for the Region and become an anchor for the Fundy Discovery Site. Costs for the bridge are estimated to be \$6.5 million, a large part of which is expected to be funded through external sources and partnerships. Work could begin as early as next summer but the exact timing depends on the Municipality's success with its funding applications.



## Discover the Playground

We are very excited that Phase 2 of the natural playground is now open! Visitors have been watching the construction progress with interest over the past several months and patiently awaiting completion. We hope that kids (and kids at heart) will think that this fun, unique playground has been worth the wait.

Kids, we love that you have been happily cooking in the sand kitchen, enjoying the swings and slides, and playing the musical instruments all summer. Now, you can explore the tower and wharf (and even view the river and tidal bore up here!), and once the tide comes in, take the boat on an adventure in the Bay.

The Municipality of Colchester recognizes the financial support of the Province of Nova Scotia for some accessible components of this project and is pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage – Community Access-ability Program to improve access to community facilities for persons with disabilities.





1 Church Street  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 3Z5

[www.colchester.ca](http://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](mailto:recreation@colchester.ca)  
Materials Recovery Facility and  
Regional Balefill Facility - 902-897-0450  
Waste & Recycling Helpline:  
902-895-4777  
[helpline@colchester.ca](mailto: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

## Finance

### Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2020/21 property tax bills were due on August 31, 2020; any outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.00% monthly.

There are many options for you to pay your property taxes:

- Payments can be made by online banking or at most banks. Please make sure you use the [assessment account number](#) as your account number. Allow 2-3 business days for processing.
- Mail: Please note the "Assessment Account Number" in the cheque memo. Cheques can be sent to 1 Church Street, Truro, NS, B2N 3Z5.
- Secure Dropbox: There is a secure drop box located at the back entrance of our office at 1 Church Street, Truro.
- Tax Office (cash, cheque and debit only) at 1 Church Street, Truro, between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Please note: at this time our building is restricted to one resident at a time.

If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact our office to verify your mailing address.

If you have any questions regarding your tax bill or need to set up a re-payment plan for your outstanding property taxes, please contact Chelsea Veling at 902-897-3162 or [cveling@colchester.ca](mailto:cveling@colchester.ca).

### Did you know?

We have a variety of pre-authorization tax payment plans available:

1. Due Date - The tax bill amount is withdrawn on the annual due date.
2. Pre-payment - Pre-pay next years bill by paying equal monthly installments.
3. Recurring payment - You determine how much you want withdrawn monthly.

For more information, call 902-897-3162 or email [taxoffice@colchester.ca](mailto:taxoffice@colchester.ca).

### Tax Sale

The tax sale list will be made available on October 14, 2020 with the proposed tax sale date being November 17, 2020. Check local papers and our website at [www.colchester.ca/tax-sales](http://www.colchester.ca/tax-sales) for the list and updated information as it becomes available.