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March 2021

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## Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE - MAY 7, 2021

Residential property owners may be eligible for an exemption on their 2021/2022 property taxes of **\$534.60**. 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 \$26,485	\$534.60
Family of 2	Less than \$34,982	\$534.60
Family of 3 or more	Less than \$41,978	\$534.60

**Gross Income refers to the total gross income from all sources for the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.** 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 2020 **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 Tuesday, April 27, 2021. The sale will take place at 10:00 am at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 26, 42 Brunswick Street, Truro. The properties for sale will be advertised in local newspapers on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 and Wednesday, April 21, 2021. For more information about the Tax Sale, please visit our website at [www.colchester.ca/tax-sales](http://www.colchester.ca/tax-sales) or call the Tax Office at 902-897-3162.

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## From the Mayor's Desk

### **Budget:**

Council is beginning work on our budget for the upcoming year 2021-22, looking at both our Operations and Capital budgeting components along with our strategic priorities for this year and into the future.

29 applications were received for non-profit and community grants totaling \$210,000. Deciding grant distribution on such worthy requests is always a challenging task. We look at each request objectively before reaching a decision.

Approximately 48 per cent of our budget is paid directly to the provincial government for services such as education and policing, which leaves us with just over half of our revenues to provide services within Colchester County.

Colchester enjoys one of the lowest rates of property tax in rural Nova Scotia. We work very hard to maintain a low tax rate as we fully recognize the many challenges our residents and our businesses are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark:**

Since the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark received its UNESCO Global Geopark designation on July 10, 2020, many positive things are continuing to happen.

The Geopark office is located in the Debert Business Park, MacElmon Road, just off Hwy 104 at Exit 13 with three staff members on site: the Executive Director, the Geoscientist and an Administrative Assistant. Enquiries are coming into the office daily about various Geopark sites and trails.

The Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark is pleased to become the first Geopark in North America to be part of the international GEOfood Program. The GEOfood brand will be used to identify foods grown, produced, or harvested within the Geopark. It will be a great marketing tool and will demonstrate how our geological conditions have a positive impact on the quality of our food.

The Geopark will be hosting a series of information meetings for local producers, harvesters, restaurateurs, groceries, farmers' markets and accommodation providers beginning late spring.

### **COVID-19:**

Here we are one year since the first days of the COVID-19 State of Emergency being initiated and the only certainty we have is the uncertainty of it all. Yet, we are persevering and that shows our resilience and our strength.



*Cliffs of Fundy Geoscientist, Caleb Grant, joined Fundy Geological Museum staff on a winter field trip.*

*Photo credit: Regan Maloney, Fundy Geological Museum*

We must remain vigilant, continuing to follow the health directives and soon, we will all be able to receive the vaccine which should allow us to go back to a level of what we have known as normal. Stay safe!

#### **In Closing:**

The one-year anniversary of the Mass Shooting of 22 plus one persons is coming up within the next few weeks. Please keep the families, relatives, friends and neighbours of those lost in your hearts and prayers. Our love and caring is a testament to the very heart of what it means to be a supportive community in this County, this Province and Country.

Christine Blair, Mayor

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## **Community Development**

### **Carbon-Free Colchester**

The Municipality of Colchester is planning for bold climate action and a resilient future with its new *Carbon-Free Colchester* Community Energy & Emissions Plan. Staff are currently wrapping up community engagement and stakeholder consultation, with assistance from Sustainability Solutions Group, and the Plan is targeted for completion in April. The Plan will lay out Colchester's path to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 to 30 years, including short- and long-term targets and a list of actions for each sector to help improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

In addition to environmental benefits, *Carbon-Free Colchester* will result in many economic and social benefits for the community, such as energy cost savings, more comfortable homes, green job creation, and more. Stay up to date by checking the municipal website ([www.colchester.ca](http://www.colchester.ca)), the *Carbon-Free Colchester* website ([www.carbonfreecolchester.ca](http://www.carbonfreecolchester.ca)), municipal social media, and this newsletter in the coming months to learn about programs and initiatives that you can participate in!

### **Home Energy Assessment Rebate Available**

You can receive a \$50 rebate from the Municipality toward your Home Energy Assessment completed by Efficiency Nova Scotia. 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, evaluating air leakage, insulation levels, and mechanical systems. You will be given a report about your home's energy use, opportunities for upgrades and will be eligible for up to \$5,000 in rebates from Efficiency NS. Apply today at [www.colchester.ca/home-assessment-program](http://www.colchester.ca/home-assessment-program).



If you have questions about either of the above initiatives, please contact Joanna Burris at 902-897-3168 or [jbarris@colchester.ca](mailto:jbarris@colchester.ca).

## Animal Control

### Remember to Scoop Up and Make a Date to Vaccinate



The nice weather has arrived and we're all beginning to get more active with our pets. Cleaning up after your pet is something that is not only sanitary but responsible and respectful to others. Pets can 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 parks and trails, clean.

**Section 16(g) of our By-law states: Any owner who fails to remove the feces of a dog, other than a dog that is trained to assist and is assisting a person with a disability, from public property or private property other than the owners; is guilty of an offence.**

When feces is left behind, dogs can be at risk for contracting Parvovirus, Coccidiosis, Giardia, and Parasites (eg. round worms and tapeworms). Parvovirus is a highly contagious viral illness that usually affects young puppies. This virus is transmitted via the infected feces of the dog and works by temporarily destroying the lining of the intestinal tract, causing very little or no food and liquid to be absorbed. As a result, dogs that become infected with the Parvovirus may experience extreme flu symptoms, weight loss, and fever. In addition, as Parvovirus affects the immune system by limiting the production of white blood cells that protect against infection, dogs may develop other diseases. For a detailed list of the symptoms of parvovirus and other diseases, please contact your local Veterinarian.

To help keep your dog safe from Parvovirus and other diseases, ensure that your vaccinations are up to date, or, that you do yearly titers and that your pet has had its annual wellness appointment. If you do encounter feces on a walking trail, try to discourage your dog from approaching it and always remember to clean up after your own pet. Keeping a small bottle of sanitizer in your pocket is always a good idea to wash your hands after disposing of a soiled bag.



## Don't Forget to Purchase Your 2021 Dog Tag

As per the County's Dog By-law, all dogs must be registered and tagged by January 10<sup>th</sup> of each year, but tags can still be purchased throughout the year. Tags can be purchased at any of the following locations:

- Community Development Office, 1 Church Street, Truro
- All My Pets, Salmon River
- Central Nova Animal Hospital, Bible Hill
- Fundy Veterinarians, Murray Siding and Shubenacadie
- Truro Veterinary Hospital, Truro
- Stay N' Play Canine Centre, Truro
- Future Worx, Tatamagouche
- The Store, North River
- SPCA, Truro
- Cross Roads Boarding, Behavior and Training, Great Village

## A Message From the RCMP



### Question and Answer

#### Cst. Christiana Clements (Colchester RCMP – School Resource Officer)

**How long have you worked for the RCMP?** 11 years

**Where were you born?** Saint John, New Brunswick

**If you could travel anywhere where would you go?** Italy and along the Mediterranean coast.

**First job?** Processing Aide at the Saint John Regional Hospital

**Best advise you have been given?** Anything worth having, is worth fighting for.

**What is your most memorable posting?** Sheet Harbour, NS

**Who is your hero?** My parents

**If you had one superpower what would it be?** To be in numerous different places at once.

**Kids? Furbabies?** Three kids, 2 dogs and 2 cats!

**Why did you become a member/employee of the RCMP?** I wanted secure job with lots of opportunities to try different things and because I wanted to make a positive impact on people.

**If you could have dinner with anyone who would it be?** Kamala Harris

**What does red serge mean to you?** Pride and Canadian History

**Last concert you went to?** Eric Church and Carrie Underwood

**Favorite Movie?** Little Women

**What person from history would you like to have a three hour conversation with?** Both Michelle and Barak Obama



Photo: Cst. Christiana Clements



Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Gendarmerie royale  
du Canada

Canada

## 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. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> for Good Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> for Easter Monday and Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> for Victoria Day.

### Important Holiday Collection Change Notice

Residents whose normal collection would have been scheduled for Good Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Due to the holiday, your collection will take place on the PREVIOUS Monday March 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

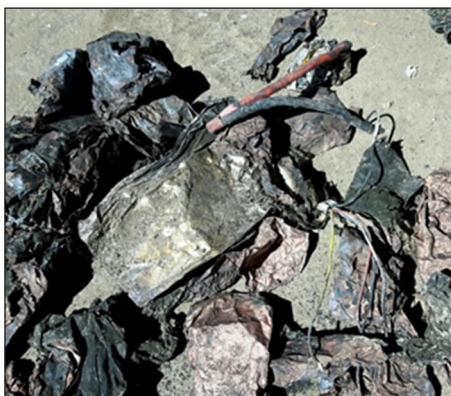


Spring will eventually arrive here in Nova Scotia and we will be changing out our tires. Nova Scotians can return up to four used passenger tires for recycling to any tire retailer in the province, during their regular business hours - free of charge. When you are purchasing new tires, or putting on your summer tires, simply leave any unwanted or worn-out tires at the tire retailer.

## Safety Messages

As we all struggle with Covid fatigue and the abundance of safety messages to wear our mask and sanitize our hands, it's also important to remember a couple of other safety practices that will keep you and the Solid Waste Workers safe.

### Proper Household Battery Disposal



The number of annual fire incidents at waste and recycling facilities continues to rise. One of the main causes of the fires is the increase in the popularity of lithium-ion batteries. Lithium batteries are found in everyday items such as phones, tablets, toys and hearing aids. There is limited information on what to do with these batteries once they are no longer useful. As a result, they are appearing more frequently in the municipal garbage and are often incorrectly placed in blue recycling bags. Lithium batteries may unknowingly catch fire and sometimes explode, causing injuries to workers and equipment, potentially destroying an entire facility. Please contact the Colchester Helpline at 902-895-4777 to find the battery drop off site near you.

### Slow Down to Go Around

The solid waste industry is in the top ten most dangerous industries in North America, due to the number of fatalities each year. In 2020, there were 52 fatalities with just over half of these caused by a collision or impact with a vehicle.

Please slow down when going around collection vehicles and be aware that a worker is nearby loading materials into the vehicle.



### Covid Trash

Reminder that disposable masks and wipes are garbage and should be placed in your clear garbage bag for proper disposal. Do not leave them in your grocery cart or in the parking lots. Thank You!

## Colchester Licensing Renewal

Commercial haulers for waste, recycling, organics, and construction debris will be receiving licensing renewal packages in the mail. These licensing forms will need to be updated by **April 1, 2021**.

## 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 quickly determine which truck should pick up the materials.

## Recreation

### Keep Current, Keep Moving!

It continues to be a time of change and adaptation. Keep up-to-date on what's happening in recreation activities and programs in Colchester County by visiting our website at [www.colchester.ca/recreation](http://www.colchester.ca/recreation) and following us on social media @MunColRec. Let's keep moving through this season of change!



### 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.

### Regional Parks Open May 8<sup>th</sup>

Is visiting a new park on your list of things to do in 2021? Maybe you have a favorite park which you look forward to returning to this spring. Add a municipal park to your list! 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



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

Visit [www.colchester.ca/parks-and-trails](http://www.colchester.ca/parks-and-trails) for directions and more information about these parks and many others. Municipal staff are busy preparing the regional parks for regular operation which resumes on May 8<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you!

### Plan Your Next Trail Adventure

Many people have been exploring trails over the past year. Trails enrich our lives – mind, body and soul – in many ways. Let’s continue to make trails part of our outdoor adventures in 2021. Walk to your heart’s content beside seacoasts and salt marshes. Hike to waterfalls in the hills. Run like the wind through hemlocks in a park. Bicycle on routes where train whistles used to blow. Stroll beside wonderful wetlands. Relax by a shaded brook or a tidal bay. With more than 150 km of walking, hiking and bicycling trails, Colchester County has something for everyone.

Plan your next trail adventure with family or friends at [www.colchester.ca/trails](http://www.colchester.ca/trails).



Cobequid Trail – Old Barns



From **April 18<sup>th</sup>** to **April 24<sup>th</sup>** communities across Canada will celebrate **National Volunteer Week**, a time to celebrate and 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.

Visit <https://www.colchester.ca/volunteers> for links if you want to volunteer or if you are an organization seeking volunteers. You can also find information here about nominating local volunteers - individuals, groups, youth, families and businesses – for recognition during National Volunteer Week each year.

## Public Works

### County Flood Advisory Committee – Project Highlights

The Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) has been in place since the mid-1990's assisting property owners with repairs on flood damaged properties caused by a watercourse or water run-off from a public road. The FAC will provide consulting services while completing the design and construction with cost sharing from property owners. Below is a sample of the work completed by the FAC in 2020/2021:

#### Project 1: Hillcrest Avenue, Bible Hill

Stabilization along a drainage way causing flooding on neighboring properties. This was a joint project with the Village of Bible Hill.

Project Costs: \$9,200



#### Project 2: Gasper Cross Road, Salmon River

Spillway created to slow down and reduce flows from flooding properties all along the street.

Project Costs: \$13,500



## Public Works Permits

Public Works is responsible for approving and issuing permits related to sewer, water, driveways, and frontage culverts. Please contact the Public Works Office at 902-897-3175 or by email at [engineer@colchester.ca](mailto:engineer@colchester.ca) if you require additional information.

### Installing a New Driveway?

A permit is required for the construction of a driveway on properties located on any County Owned Road (blue street sign). The Engineer will issue this no-fee permit which includes construction details on how the work is to be completed. No inspections are required.

### How Can I Connect to Municipal Sewer?

All new connections to the sewer system require a permit from our Community Development Office. Permits cost \$150 of which \$50 is refundable after inspection is complete. For residential properties (single family and duplex), if there is no lateral extending from the main line to the property line, owners are required to pay \$3,500 to have Public Works install the new lateral to the property line.

Don't forget when making your connection, you need to install a clean-out at the property line and a backflow check valve within the building service connection.



### How Can I Connect to Municipal Water?

All new connections to the municipal water systems in Tatamagouche and Debert require a permit from our Community Development Office. Permits cost \$150 in Debert and \$160 in Tatamagouche.

For residential properties (single family and duplex), if there is no lateral extending from the main line to the property line, owners are required to pay \$5,500 to have Public Works install the new lateral to the property line.

### Can I Fill in My Ditch?

Residents living along a County Owned Road (blue street sign) can apply for a permit to fill in the ditch in front of their home with a buried culvert. This no-fee permit will be issued by our Engineer and will include details on how to carry out the work. Contact the Public Works Office for an application.



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

## Municipality of Colchester

### Did You Know?

- Not all roads in the County are owned and maintained by the County? The County only owns 30km of roads which are indicated by a blue street sign. Green signs are those roads owned by the province under NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Privately owned roads are looked after by the residents living on the road and have white signs.
- The County sewer system consists of 211km of sewer lines, 31 pumping stations, 2,300 manholes and 5 treatment plants. Over 20 million litres of sewage is treated each day.
- 33km of sidewalks throughout Brookfield, Debert, Hilden, North River, Onslow, Salmon River, Truro Heights and Valley are owned and maintained by the County. Sidewalks within Bible Hill and Tatamagouche are taken care of by their Village Commissions.
- There is only municipal water in the communities of Debert and Tatamagouche. Anyone living outside of these areas have their own private well.

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## Employee Recognition

The Municipality's Service Recognition Policy acknowledges employees reaching service milestones. Employees recognized for years of service to the end of 2020 were:

**5 Years:** Rodel Aggabao, Dayo Akinsiku, Gary Garcia, Wade George, Mike Loughhead, Robyn MacCallum, Rolando Magboo and Steven Totten

**10 Years:** Scott Hoyt, Rebecca MacLean and Tim Smith

**15 Years:** Glenn Frank, Sedley MacKay, Krista Morrissey, Krista Mont, Irene Redmond, Jessica Rushton and Shawn Stewart

**20 Years:** Wendy Johnson and David Westlake

**35 Years:** Crawford MacPherson

