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September 2021

Volume 26 Issue 3

By-Election for District 10 Councillor

A By-Election will be held on **Saturday, November 6th** for District 10 Councillor due to the resignation of former Councillor Tom Taggart which took effect at a meeting of Council on August 26, 2021.

Between now and the completion of a by-election, citizens residing or operating businesses within the boundaries of District 10 will be served by the Mayor of Colchester, any Councillor from another District, and/or Municipal staff. ***To speak with a Colchester County representative or staff person concerning District 10, please call 902-897-3184.***

Watch our website, www.colchester.ca, in the coming weeks for more information.

District 10 includes the communities of Lynn, Lower Five Islands, Five Islands, Simpson Lake, Lower Economy, Carrs Brook, Economy, Upper Economy, Little Bass River, Bass River, McCormack Lake, Castlereagh, Montrose, Portapique, Five Houses, Highland Village, Lornevale, Londonderry, Londonderry Station, East Village, Great Village, Little Dyke, Glenholme, Folly Mountain, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Lower Debert and Masstown.

From the Mayor's Desk

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few new initiatives since our last newsletter.

Neighbourhood Nuisance By-Law: The “Neighbourhood Nuisance By-Law” for Colchester County passed its second reading at the regular monthly meeting of Council on August 26th. This by-law “aims to deter activity that may, by frequency or intensity, unreasonably disturb a neighbourhood.” The by-law has clear exemptions for common activities that may occur as disturbances on occasion but are generally accepted. Examples could be a response to emergencies, recreation, community event activity, or operating a business.

Enforcement would be through the RCMP, at their discretion. I say “discretion” because their calls are prioritized. Also, being a rural municipality there are distances that may affect response times. The RCMP has worked with Colchester on this by-law and we appreciate their input. Penalties are listed for those who violate any of the provisions of the by-law, which can be found at www.colchester.ca.

Professional Women's Hockey Players Association Announcement: It was my pleasure to attend the formal announcement and to bring greetings on behalf of Colchester County to the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) representatives who will be here at our own RECC November 11 to 14, 2021, for their “Dream Gap Tour.”

This is an important chapter in our sports history as these will be the first female professional hockey games to be played in Atlantic Canada. We are privileged to be the first community to host the PWHPA and we are committed to ensure it won't be the last

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time to see this quality of professional hockey in our area. Not only do we have the social benefits of community pride, collaboration and camaraderie, we also will see economic benefits to local businesses in the hospitality sector and to tourism.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to see this caliber of professional hockey. Given November 12th is an in-service day for teachers and no school classes are being held, it would be very special for our youth to enjoy a hockey game at the RECC. Of course, all COVID protocols and health directives will be observed.

Thank you to the RECC staff for their hard work. Thank you to the PWHPA for their trust and confidence in giving us this opportunity to host the PWHPA Dream Gap Tour this November. Support women's professional hockey and sport equality. Join us in November for these exceptional hockey games. "Put Your Stick in the Ground" for the PWHPA!



In Solidarity: Colchester County has joined our fellow municipalities and First Nation communities across Nova Scotia and Canada in solidarity to express sympathy to Indigenous communities across this great nation. In honour of the 215 children lost to residential school atrocities in Kamloops, BC, Colchester County flew its flags at half mast for 215 hours, 9 days. To those families who lost their loved ones and to the survivors, our hearts go out to you, our thoughts are with you.

On June 3rd, the Government of Canada passed legislation to make September 30th a federal statutory holiday called the "*National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.*" The Municipality of Colchester will be honouring this statutory holiday, to recognize and commemorate the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, to honour the survivors, their families and communities.

In Conclusion: I want to mention three very special women as I close my comments for this newsletter. They are Sylvia McMillan, Central Onslow, who celebrated her 102nd birthday on April 10, 2021; Alice Williams, Bible Hill, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 29, 2021; and Ethel McKillop, formerly of East Stewiacke, who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 23, 2021. Can you imagine what these amazing women have seen during their lifetimes? Mrs. McKillop, for example, spent five years of WWII in the Royal Air Force and came to the



Stewiacke area as a War Bride, married to Walter McKillop, who fought with the North Nova Highlanders. It is always such a pleasure to deliver celebratory certificates to our Colchester residents in recognition of their birthdays or anniversaries. For those individuals who reach 90+ years, it is extra special.

Secondly, with Mayor Bill Mills, Town of Truro, and at the invitation of MP Lenore Zann, on behalf of our Municipality, I had the pleasure of welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. Chrystia Freeland, to our area recently. We met at the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Stay safe and remain vigilant as you follow our provincial health directives.

My regards to all,
Christine Blair, Mayor

In Need of a Family Doctor?

It's no secret we still need more family doctors in our communities and across Nova Scotia. Work is being done across the Province, by community recruitment committees in partnership with Nova Scotia Health, to attract and retain new physicians. While work continues towards providing every member of our community with a family doctor, there are options to accessing primary care that you may not be aware of.

Patients without a family doctor are encouraged to register for the **Need a Family Practice Registry**. When a new physician arrives and is accepting new patients, you must be on the *Need a Family Practice Registry* for Nova Scotia Health to contact you. You can register online at needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca or call 811 to speak to someone directly.

Primary Access Clinics are for those who have already added their names to the Need a Family Practice Registry, as an interim option to receive care other than at local emergency departments. To make an appointment, call 902-899-2273.

VirtualCareNS is a virtual primary care clinic operated by Nova Scotia Health that provides access to primary care for individuals on the Need a Family Practice Registry. Individuals in the communities of Middleton, New Glasgow, Truro, and Yarmouth have been invited to register first due to the high need in these communities. The program will gradually expand to all communities in these zones. In addition to being on the Need a Family Practice Registry, participants must also:

- Hold a valid Nova Scotia Health Card number;
- Be able to access the internet through a computer or mobile device; and
- Have a valid e-mail that they regularly use.

Despite many of the hardships we have all endured through this pandemic over the past year and a half, the Truro-Colchester area has been able to welcome several new family doctors and specialists. We welcome them and their families to our community!

- Truro & Colchester Physician Recruitment Committee

A Message from the RCMP



The banner features the RCMP crest on the left, which includes a bison head and the motto "MAINTIENS-LE DROIT". To the right of the crest, the text "IN SCHOOL ZONES SLOW DOWN!" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a red banner contains the text "A REMINDER FROM COLCHESTER DISTRICT RCMP" in white. In the top right corner, there is a yellow square sign with a black silhouette of a person walking with a child. At the bottom right, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, with the text "Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Nova Scotia" and the handles "@RCMPNS" and "@GRCNE".

Recreation

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



Municipal Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

Upcoming application deadlines:

Community Park Funding Program – September 15, 2021

Funding for Insurance for Non-Profit Groups – October 22, 2021

Community Trail Funding Program – January 28, 2022

Grants to Non-Profit Organizations – January 31, 2022

Please visit www.colchester.ca/grants-and-funding for program details and application forms.



Women's Learn 2 Play Hockey

Hey ladies, have you ever wanted to learn to play hockey? Here's your chance! This "learn to" hockey program is designed to teach the basics of hockey to women with little or no experience. The program reviews skating skills, basic rules, shooting/passing, and game fundamentals.

Program Locations – Debert or Brookfield

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited!

For more details contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Colchester 4 on 4 Hockey for Women

Colchester County hosts ladies 4 on 4 hockey games for more experienced players. Games take place every Sunday at Deuville's Rink in Salmon River. If you would like more information, please contact Ellie Shipley-Landry at ellieshipley74@gmail.com.

Cobequid Trail Bench Dedication

A new bench and maple tree along the Cobequid Trail in Lower Truro were recently dedicated to the memory of Allen and Violet Large for their commitment and support to the British Home Children and Descendants Association. Allen's father, Herbert Large, was a British Home Child. A number of Herbert's descendants were in attendance as well as other members of the association. The bench, installed by Colchester Recreation staff, is located at the Cobequid Trail trailhead at 3471 Highway 236.



Photo credit: Catherine West



Cycling on the Cobequid Trail, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

Autumn Trail Adventures

Fall is a great time of the year to be outside and explore the wonderful trails in Colchester County. Enjoy the fresh air and vibrant colours! Visit www.colchester.ca/trails and www.nstrails.com/trailguide to plan your next trail adventure.

Municipal Regional Parks



Enjoy the panoramic view from a new hammock at Five Islands Lighthouse Park

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. Relax and take in the spectacular view 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 the trails in Stewiacke River Park.

The regional parks are serviced until October 11, 2021, but the public is welcome to use the parks for walking and snowshoeing during the late fall and winter. For more information, please visit www.colchester.ca/parks-and-trails or phone 902-897-3180.

Calling All Artists!

Art Acquisition and Show in November

Local artists are invited to participate in the Municipality's Annual Art Acquisition Program this Fall.

Artists must apply to participate and can submit up to three pieces of work. The various works of art will be featured in an art show, proudly hosted each year by the Municipality of Colchester (art show time and location to be announced). During the show, a work of art is selected by a Committee and added to the permanent public display on the main floor of the Colchester County Courthouse. The selection is based on quality of the art, the historic development and lifestyle of Colchester County, and the medium used.

For more information about the Art Acquisition Program, please visit www.colchester.ca/art-acquisition-program or contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: 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 4:00 pm

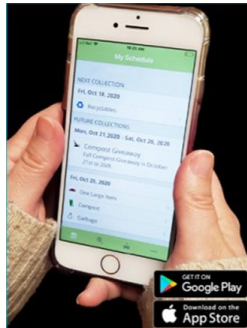
Reminder: All visitors must report to the Scalehouse prior to unloading materials. The Scalehouse operator can accept cash, personal cheques, or Interac as payment for disposal. The Scalehouse is **not** able to accept credit cards. All loads must be tarped to prevent litter problems. Untarped loads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

AFTER HOURS DUMPING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. As per Chapter 33, Solid Waste By-law, no person shall place, cause to be placed or permit to be placed any solid waste at or adjacent to a Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility when the facility is not open. This violation carries a penalty of up to \$5,000.

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be **closed** on Monday, September 6th for Labour Day, Thursday, September 30th for Truth and Reconciliation Day, Monday, October 11th for Thanksgiving and Thursday, November 11th for Remembrance Day.

Stay Up to Date on Collection Changes When They Affect You

Make sure you are signed up for our service alert and reminder service! Check it out on our website at www.colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling. Enter your civic address and your customized calendar can be printed, synchronized with your electronic calendar, and you can receive weekly reminders by phone, email or Twitter. Once signed up, we can instantly contact you when changes occur to collection in your area due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances.



Smartphone or Tablet User?

Download our Colchester Waste Resource Management app for free on Apple and Android devices.

Don't Have a Computer, Printer, or Smartphone?

No Problem! Call us at 902-895-4777 and we will be happy to mail you out a customized calendar and set this service up for you.

Mark Your Calendars! 2021 Mobile Household Hazardous Waste & Paper Shredding Events

September 18th – Paper Shredding Event

Location: Rath Eastlink Community Center Parking Lot
625 Abenaki Road, Truro

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am to 12 noon

Community Paper Shredding Event

Rath Eastlink Community Centre
Parking Lot
625 Abenaki Rd, Truro

- Open to residents & small businesses in Colchester, Truro & Stewiacke
- 10 file boxes or 5 large bags of paper per person or business
- No plastic sleeves or binders

October 16th – Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event

Location: Industrial Building Parking Lot, Nova Scotia
Provincial Exhibition Grounds
73 Ryland Avenue, Bible Hill

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

For both events, please remain in your vehicles and wait for staff to safely unload your materials.

Roadside Reminder

Please do not leave any items curbside that are not intended for disposal.

If you are using an item to secure your bags such as crowbars, weights etc., please label that they are not garbage.

If your barrel, plastic totes, or wheelbarrow are to be used for storage, please label that they are not garbage.

Please ensure that any tools, lawn furniture, toys or bicycles that are not intended to be garbage are clearly stored away from the garbage collection area on collection day.

Bulky Item Collection

Did you know that because of Covid, the Clean Up program has been improved? You can now place **two large bulky items at the curb on your regular garbage day all year long!** This has replaced the traditional one day Clean Up program.

As a safety precaution, when placing a large window or a large glass item at the curb, please package it safely. We want to ensure that you and the collector will be safe from any breakage and potential sharp edges. You can wrap in cardboard, paper, textiles or secure with duct tape. All material must be curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day.



Fall Compost Giveaway

Free compost will be available at the Balefill Facility (188 Mingo Rd., Kemptown) during Waste Reduction Week – from October 18th to October 23rd.

Residential property owners will be allowed 200kgs (or six bags) of compost for free. Bags are provided but please remember to bring your own shovel and wear appropriate footwear and gloves.

Remember, residents can purchase bagged compost for \$2.00 per bag and bulk compost for \$35/metric tonne all year long.

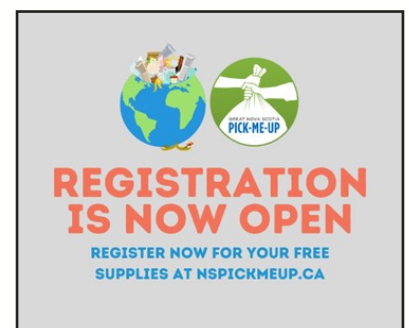
Sharps Safety

The Materials Recovery Facility continues to find needles and lancets in the recycling. It is very important that residents dispose of these items properly for the safety of both collection workers and those who **hand sort** your recycling. Please ask your local pharmacy for a free “safe sharps” disposal container. Once full, you can return the container to your local pharmacy for safe and proper disposal.

Litter

Litter is still an ongoing problem in our society, but there are programs such as the Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up where citizens and groups can be outfitted with bags for free to do a community clean up.

Register your clean up and you will receive a copy of the Pick-Me-Up handbook, a poster that you can use to help promote your event and a data card to be completed after the clean up to document all the material. For more information, visit www.NSPickMeUp.ca.



Remember - No Plastic in Green Carts

Compostable and biodegradable plastic products such as bags, containers, cups and cutlery are NOT permitted in green carts as they cause operational issues at our Compost Facility.

We have reached out to the local retailers selling these products, but ultimately your green cart can be rejected if these products are found in it.

Important Reminder

✗

NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THE GREEN CART

- No plastic
- No biodegradable plastic bags
- No compostable plastic bags
- No oxo-degradable plastic bags

Please note: These bags cause operational issues at the compost facility. Carts containing any type of plastic will **NOT** be emptied.

✓

ACCEPTABLE IN THE GREEN CART

Paper bags

Newsprint

Flyers

For more information call our helpline 902-895-4777

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates to Remember

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

2021 Dates of Operation:

Saturday September 11th

Saturday, October 2nd

Saturday, November 6th

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal



Are You Prepared for Extreme Weather Events?

In addition to being prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours (with sufficient food, water, batteries, etc.) access to information can be critical to keeping you and your loved ones safe during an emergency.



Alert Truro Colchester is a notification system that allows the Municipality of Colchester and the Town of Truro to send important information directly to subscribed residents. Messages can be received by phone, text, and/or email, and subscribers can also opt in to receive geo-targeted notifications related to other municipal services such as water, sewer, or road closures in their area.

During an extended power outage for example, you could be notified of local comfort stations in your area that offer electricity, water, and a place to warm up. If you are a municipal water customer, you could be directly notified of a potential water quality/quantity concern.

Sign up for free by visiting www.AlertTC.ca or contact Devin Trefry at the Municipality of Colchester for assistance by calling 902-897-3182.

Public Works

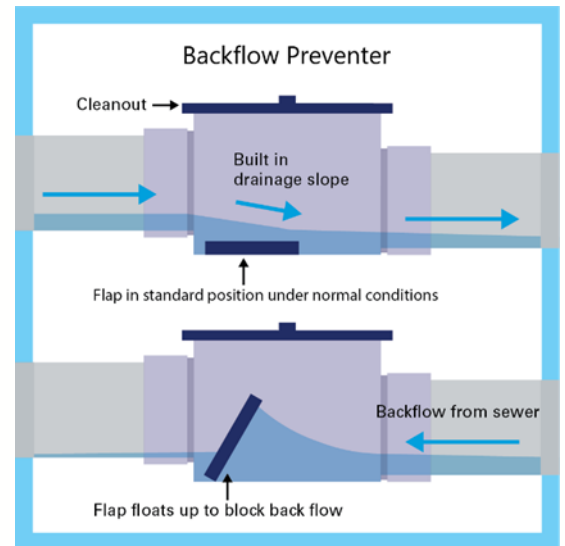
What Are Back Flow Preventers and Why Should I Have One?

Back flow preventers allow sewage to only flow one way in your pipe which is away from your home. It stops sewage from flowing backwards up your pipe and into your home.

These devices are helpful during sewer backups or when necessary maintenance is being done on our main sewer lines.

The County requires that all new sewer connections have a back flow device installed.

If you do not have one, consider protecting yourself and your home by contacting a plumber to have one installed.



Who Do I Call About an Issue With My Road?

Did you know not all roads within the County are owned and maintained by the County? The County only owns and maintains approximately 30kms of roads while the rest is maintained by others.

The colour of the 'road name sign' identifies who owns the road and is responsible for its maintenance.

GREEN SIGNS



Owner: Province

Phone: 1-844-696-7737

Email: tir-occ@novascotia.ca

BLUE SIGNS



Owner: County

Phone: 902-897-3175

Email: engineer@colchester.ca

WHITE SIGNS



Owner: Private

Maintained by the residents living on the road

Animal Control

Please be advised that until further notice, the SPCA will be looking after all dog complaints, fencing and detention of stray livestock complaints. You can contact them at 902-893-7968, then select the option to speak to a by-law officer.

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 County 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 County 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 can; not in compost bins, hung in trees, or left on the sidewalk. Cleaning up after your pet also includes proper disposal.

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 education. Scholarships are awarded to students who are enrolled in Bachelor or Trade Programs.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the following students received scholarships: Josh Farrell and Sam Tolboom from Tatamagouche Regional Academy; Isaac Willison and Rachel Hawkes from South Colchester Academy; Mary -Emma Barnhill, Tanner Alenkirk and Spencer Bishop from Cobequid Educational Centre; and Lee Gilbert from École acadienne de Truro.



Colchester

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 Balefill 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

Materials Recovery Facility/
Waste Reduction - 902-897-0453
Regional Balefill Facility - 895-2307

Finance

Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2021/22 property tax bills were due on August 31, 2021; 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.
- Cheques can be mailed to 1 Church Street, Truro, NS, B2N 3Z5. Please note the "Assessment Account Number" in the cheque memo.
- There is a secure drop box located at the back entrance of our office located at 1 Church Street, Truro.
- The Tax Office can accept cash, cheque and debit only payments at 1 Church Street, Truro between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Please note, at this time our tax counter is restricted to one resident at a time. Please use the front entrance on Church Street.

If you did not receive your tax bill, have any questions regarding your 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.

Did You Know?

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

1. Due Date – The full tax bill amount is withdrawn on the annual due date.
2. Pre-Payment – Pre-pay next year's bill with equal monthly installments.
3. Recurring Payment – You choose how much you want withdrawn monthly.

For more information, call 902-897-3162 or email taxoffice@colchester.ca.

Tax Sale

The tax sale list will be made available on October 27, 2021 with the proposed tax sale date being November 30, 2021. Check local papers and our website at www.colchester.ca/tax-sales for the list and updated information as it becomes available.