



# Colchester NEWSLETTER



Hello Colchester!

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of Colchester's newsletter, where we share exciting news, helpful tips and much more with our residents!

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## CHECK THIS OUT!

The **2023 Waste Sorting Booklet** is included as an insert in this edition of the Colchester Newsletter. This is where you'll find important year-round waste collection dates, sorting instructions, how to stay up to date on your collection service, and so much more!

*Be centred here.*



Mayor Christine Blair; The Hon. G. Hutchings; Councillor Laurie Sandeson, District 2

Councillor Sandeson and I were pleased to speak briefly with the Hon. Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development, while attending the sessions. Further, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to address the Minister the following day at a FCM Rural Caucus breakfast. I spoke on the need to continue federal infrastructure programs in the best interests of municipalities.

Within our municipality, we have several priorities. Housing is one of those. We are looking at several developments with a diversity of housing types – apartments, 4-plexes, duplexes, and detached. Updates will be given on these developments as more information becomes available.

## From the Mayor's Desk:

Already we are three months into 2023 and beginning our quarterly newsletter publications with a new format. The new year has been busy and getting busier as we begin our budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year.

In addition to my day-to-day commitments, on your behalf and as your spokesperson, I represent you at various outside boards, commissions and associations, as do many of our Councillors. This keeps Colchester informed and at the forefront of provincial, national and international municipal interests and goals, with funding opportunities being a key component. Being able to access provincial and federal funding for Colchester projects enables us to stretch our tax dollars.

In early February, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities held its annual Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa. Councillor Laurie Sandeson and I attended, along with our Sustainability Planner, Joanna Burris. This was a productive conference with no time wasted as we attended plenaries, panel discussions, workshops, heard keynote speakers, all with the same goal of dealing with climate change and adaptation.

It was my pleasure to welcome Scottish curlers to Colchester County on January 18th, as they participated in competitions in eastern Canada for the Strathcona Cup. While the bonspiel was held across the country, we were pleased to be one of the hosts of this event and offer these guests our local hospitality. Colchester's own Glenn Ross was one of the main organizers of the event while Craig Burgess, Colchester's Manager of Recreation Services, assisted with this competition as well.

Earlier this year I was also invited to be a keynote speaker at the Manitoba Disaster Management Conference (MDMC) in Winnipeg on January 25, 2023. In existence for over 30 years, MDMC is held every 18 months and is the largest emergency management conference in Central Canada. The Conference strives to bring best practices in emergency management education and training to Manitoba and Canadian emergency managers, educators, first responders and others involved in managing emergencies. I had the privilege of working with registered social worker and grief specialist, Serena Lewis, to present the keynote address. Together we shared our experiences relating to the 2020 mass casualty and honoured those lost. This was a heart-wrenching, and sensitive subject to discuss.

As we approach the anniversary of those tragic events, flags at Colchester County offices and facilities will be at half mast, with respect, on April 18 and 19.

Kind regards to all,  
Christine Blair, Mayor

Mayor Blair was honoured to be presented with an Eagle Feather by Councillor Nelson Nepinak, Skownan First Nation, Manitoba.

*Be centred here.*





# Colchester

## Reflecting on 2022 & Looking Ahead

### Q. What was one of the County's greatest achievements of 2022?

Debert Business Park saw significant growth in 2022 welcoming six new businesses. Interest from both domestic and foreign investors led to Council approval of seven new development projects resulting in 165+ acres of commercial land sales with construction slated to begin in 2023. Colchester's state-of-the-art aviation facility, Debert Aviation Centre, welcomed a new aircraft maintenance company and offers private hangar storage for small aircrafts. Additionally, we were happy to host Air Show Atlantic at the Debert Airport in August 2022 and look forward to its return August 2023!

### Q. What were a few other highlights of 2022?

#### Fundy Discovery Site

Visitation numbers to the Site in 2022 rebounded to pre-pandemic levels and the site is becoming a premier attraction in the province. A new webcam was installed offering a live view of the bay and a 24-hour timelapse (if you miss the tidal bore, you can check the website to see what you missed). The family washroom at the Site was also opened this winter to accommodate increased visitation.

#### New Environmental Initiatives

Waste Reduction Educational Program, Colchester Clean Spring Litter Clean Up, and progress in implementing our Carbon-Free Colchester Plan including:

- 6 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the County,
- EV test drive events at the Fundy Discovery Site,
- Solar Colchester and Cozy Colchester (energy retrofit) programs,
- Launch of a student "Climate Crew" volunteer program,
- Review of our Wind Turbine By-law.

All demonstrate our commitment to enhancing environmental sustainability in Colchester.



### Q. What are some of the things on the County's to-do list in 2023?

- County-wide Planning Initiative: A major County-wide planning initiative has begun. Learn more about this exciting opportunity to help chart the course for the development of our Municipality on page 8.
- Debert Business Park Plan Development: We will be undertaking a process to develop a plan to guide future development of the Business Park to compliment existing business and incoming new development.
- Housing: We are working with developers and investors to implement housing development plans for municipally owned sites in Debert and Salmon River and ongoing infrastructure expansion to support such development will continue to be a priority in the coming year.
- Tourism: Cliffs of Fundy Geopark will undergo a process to revalidate its UNESCO Global Geopark status in 2023. Enhancements to the Geopark, including additional wayfinding and interpretive signage are anticipated leading up to the revalidation and 2023 tourism season. Council is also exploring the establishment of a regional marketing levy on overnight accommodation with other municipal partners that will support tourism promotion in the region.

### Regional Accessibility Plan

In partnership with the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke and the Villages of Bible Hill and Tatamagouche, a plan was completed to make Colchester County's municipal services and facilities more accessible. The plan will guide important work to make our communities more inclusive in the coming years.

*Be centred here.*



# Recreation

## Regional Parks Open May 6th

Is exploring a new park on your list of things to do in 2023? Maybe you have a favorite park you look forward to visiting each 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 Fundy Discovery Site, watch the tidal bore and enjoy the natural playground. At Nelson Memorial Park near Tatamagouche, explore the Butter Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail) and enjoy the coastal view. Each of these parks feature picnic facilities, playgrounds, walking paths and washrooms.

Visit [colchester.ca/parks-and-trails](https://colchester.ca/parks-and-trails) for directions and more information about these and other parks in Colchester County. As spring approaches, Municipal staff will be busy preparing regional parks for regular operation which resumes on May 6th. We look forward to seeing you!



## Volunteer Week 2023

Volunteer Canada and the Municipality of Colchester celebrate Canada's 24 million volunteers during National Volunteer Week from April 16 to 22, 2023. This annual celebration is a time to recognize and thank volunteers from coast to coast.

This year's theme is Volunteering Weaves Us Together, strengthening the fabric of our community by sharing our time, talent, and energy to support one another. Please visit [colchester.ca/volunteers](https://colchester.ca/volunteers) for information about nominating local volunteers - individuals, groups, youth, families and businesses - for recognition during National Volunteer Week.

Deadline for all Colchester County/Town of Truro Award nominations: March 31, 2023

Deadline for all Provincial Award nominations: May 12, 2023



## Step Into Spring March 25th - May 19th

Step into Spring is an 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/tracking device, record your daily step counts, and submit your weekly total to Colchester Recreation by email or phone. The registration fee is FREE for participants with their own tracking device or \$5.00 to get a pedometer. This is a great personal incentive to keep you motivated. Follow us on Facebook for lots of fun tips, challenges and so much more during Step into Spring.





# Solid Waste

## Important Holiday Reminder

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facility will be closed

- Friday, April 7th for Good Friday
- Monday, April 10th for Easter Monday
- Monday, May 22nd for Victoria Day

## Collection Notice

Residents whose normal collection would have been scheduled for Good Friday April 7th – Due to the Holiday, your collection will take place on the PREVIOUS Monday, April 3rd. 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.

## Proper Household Battery Disposal

The number of annual fire incidents at waste and recycling facilities continues to rise. One of the main causes of these fires is lithium-ion batteries which 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 and therefore they are appearing more frequently in the municipal garbage and recycling bags. Lithium batteries could catch fire and sometimes even explode, causing injuries to workers and equipment, and potentially destroying an entire facility.

To find the nearest battery drop off site near you, contact the Colchester Helpline at (902) 895-4777.



Battery Fire at the Materials Recovery Facility on January 30, 2023

## 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.

## Engage with us on Social Media!

 @ColchesterWRM

 @ColchesterWRM

 @ColchesterWRM





# Colchester

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

## March 2023

**23** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
THURS Grant Presentations

**25** Step Into Spring Begins  
MON Runs until May 19th

**30** Council Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

## April 2023

**01** Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off  
SAT Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert

Easter Egg Hunt @ Fundy Discovery Site  
For tickets, visit the Colchester Recreation Office

**07** Municipal Office Closure  
FRI Good Friday Holiday

**10** Municipal Office Closure  
MON Easter Monday Holiday

**11** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
TUES Maintenance Budget

**13** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

**16** National Volunteer Week Begins  
SUN Runs until April 22nd

**17** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
MON Additions/Deletions Budget

# April 2023



# Colchester

## Other Holidays & Observances

### MARCH

- 21 World Down Syndrome Day
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 22 Ramadan Begins
- 26 Purple Day, Supporting Epilepsy

### APRIL

- Sikh Heritage Month
- 02 World Autism Awareness Day
- 06 First Day of Passover
- 22 Earth Day

### MAY

- Asian Heritage Month
- Gaelic Awareness Month
- 05 Dutch Heritage Day
- 14 Mother's Day
- 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

22

Sat

**Colchester Clean Litter Program Begins**

Runs until May 6th

24

MON

**Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM

Additions/Deletions Budget

27

THURS

**Council Meeting** 6 PM

# May 2023

02

TUES

**Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM

Presentation Meeting

05

FRI

**Deadline to Apply for Low Income Tax Assistance Program**

06

SAT

**Municipal Parks Open**

**Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off**

Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert

**Spring Compost Giveaway Begins**

Also runs May 8th-13th

11

THURS

**Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM

22

MON

**Municipal Office Closure**

Victoria Day Holiday

23

TUES

**Council Meeting** 6 PM



# Community Development

## Colchester MPS Engagement

The Municipality of Colchester is launching public consultation for the development of a new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and we want to hear from residents about their vision for the future! This is an exciting opportunity to help co-design the evolution of growth and development in communities throughout the County through 'Plan It Colchester'.

### What is an MPS?

An MPS is the primary planning document for the Municipality which establishes the vision, goals and policies for growth and development. In other words, it's the roadmap that helps to guide decision making relating to what we build, where, and what intensity. An MPS looks at many different aspects of life in the community including (but not limited to) housing, economic development, agriculture, drinking water, and infrastructure. It also looks at important environmental considerations in our community, like the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding and the impacts that these have on development.

### How Can I Participate?

We will have multiple opportunities to participate and share your vision for the future of your community throughout late Winter and early Spring.

#### In Person:

- Open House Events (4 across the Municipality)
- Pop Up Events (4 across the Municipality)

#### Online:

- Online Open House Presentation
- Public Survey
- Interactive Mapping Activity
- Online Group Discussions

The Open House events will be an opportunity to learn a bit more about the planning process and the project more generally, and to talk directly with the project team and ask questions. The Online Open House Presentation will be recorded for those who cannot attend in person and will be uploaded to the municipal website for viewing on demand. The Pop Up Events will be held at public locations throughout the Municipality and will be a casual opportunity to share feedback with the project team.

There will also be a number of online activities - a Public Survey and an Interactive Mapping Activity. These will be open for an extended period and residents can participate at their convenience. The Online Group Discussions will be an opportunity to delve deeper into specific issues, such as agriculture, coastal issues, and housing.

### Engagement Timeline

<b>February</b> Background Report	<b>March</b> Engagement Launch	<b>April</b> Engagement Period Ends	<b>June</b> Engagement & Recommendations Report
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Stay tuned for details on the Municipality's website and Social Media accounts. We look forward to hearing your vision for the future of Colchester County! To reach the project team, you can email them at [consultation@uplandstudio.ca](mailto:consultation@uplandstudio.ca).



Photo of the Waughs River



# Public Works



## Applications and Permits

Do I need a permit? If you are installing a new driveway, filling in your ditch with a buried culvert, or installing/repairing a connection to municipal sewer or water, then the answer is YES.

How do I get started? The permit process is quite simple. Fees for each permit can be found on our website and some are free of charge. Call ahead to find out if your permit is free and can be issued by phone. Permits with a fee can be obtained from our Community Development Office at 1 Church Street. It is important to follow the conditions as outlined on your permit. Most importantly, remember to contact us 24 hours in advance to schedule an inspection.

Any questions or need additional information? Contact the Public Works Office at (902) 897-3175 or email [engineer@colchester.ca](mailto:engineer@colchester.ca).

## Call Before You Dig!

The Municipality has over 200 kms of sewer main and 36 kms of water main, all buried out of sight. While most pipes run under the street, some can cross onto private property. If you live in an area with public water and sewer services, it is always important to call before you dig. Public Works keeps records of where sewer and water lines are located on or near your property, and we can help make sure you don't dig up any lines.

If you plan on installing a fence, installing a deck, fixing your water or sewer line, installing a pool, or planting a tree, please check with us first!




## New Sidewalk Construction

Ever wonder how locations are selected for new sidewalks, or how new sidewalks are funded? The Municipality has an Active Transportation (AT) Strategy which includes short and long term plans for new sidewalks and trails. You can view the AT Strategy on our website at [colchester.ca/sidewalks](http://colchester.ca/sidewalks).

Sidewalks are funded through an area rate on property tax bills for those residents living in areas that are serviced by sidewalks. Note that even though you may not have a sidewalk on your street, you may still pay the area rate if there are sidewalks in your neighbourhood.

One of the sidewalk projects in the AT Strategy to be completed this Summer is the extension of the existing sidewalk on Highway 2 to Whidden Road in Brookfield. Stay tuned for updates on this project!!



# Finance

## Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program

**Submission Deadline is May 5, 2023**

Residential property owners may be eligible for a reduction on their 2023/2024 property taxes of \$606.86. To qualify, applicants must own and occupy the property as your principal residence and fall into one of the categories listed below:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Gross Income</u>
Single	Less than \$30,064
Family of 2	Less than \$39,710
Family of 3 or more	Less than \$47,652

Gross Income refers to the total gross income from all sources for the calendar year ending December 31, 2022. This must include the income of all members of the household, except full-time students.

You should not include income from the following sources:

- War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada);
- Veterans Affairs Canada Pension; or
- GST/HST Rebate



For income verification purposes, please bring your 2022 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 to provide as proof of income.


Notice of Assessments will NOT be accepted.

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. You may obtain an application from the Municipal Tax Office, located at 1 Church Street Truro, or by calling (902) 897-3162. Reductions are granted only for the current year. No retroactive reductions will be granted.

**For more information on this program, contact the Tax Office:**

 **(902) 897-3162**

 **[cveling@colchester.ca](mailto:cveling@colchester.ca)**

or visit [colchester.ca/finance](https://colchester.ca/finance)



## A Message From the RCMP

### Citizens on Patrol Program

The Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) is a community led program where members assist in reducing crime in their communities by being the “eyes and ears” for both their community and the local RCMP-GRC.

The goals of COPP include:

- Deterrence – including observation, documentation and reporting to provide presence in the community patrolling by vehicle, foot, bicycle, etc.
- Education – of volunteers about crime prevention
- Awareness – of suspicious and dangerous unusual activities in a community
- Safety – of members
- Have fun!

A COPP has been recently established in Tatamagouche. We anticipate this group will assist RCMP-GRC in identifying crime trends and occurrences that take place in Tatamagouche and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in starting a local COPP within other areas currently policed by Colchester RCMP-GRC, the first thing to do is to contact Cst. Erin Dillon and let her know of your groups interest. Cst. Dillon will assist your group in initiating the process.

For more information please contact:

**Cst. Dillon at (902) 893-6820**

Thank you/ Merci/ Wela'lin

## Municipality of Colchester Employee Recognition

The Municipality's Service Recognition Policy acknowledges employees reaching service milestones. Employees recognized for years of service to the end of 2022 were:

### 5 Years:

Olivia Dennis, Ishamar Senior Gentles, Mike McCulloch, Nathan Nickerson, Devin Trefry, Chelsea Veling and Dustin Yuill

### 10 Years:

Roselito Agcon, Randy Currie, Jeanette Himmelman and Rob MacLean

### 15 Years:

Andy Frizell, Joe Hopkins, Phillip MacBurnie, Mona Snow, Tracey Veno and JP Wood

### 20 Years:

Kenny Brown, Patti Cook and Cindy Moore

### 25 Years:

Colin Forsyth and Debbie MacLean



Colin Forsyth receives his certificate from Mayor Blair

## Statement of Condolences on the Passing of Bob Taylor

Colchester County Council, Bible Hill Village Commission, and staff are deeply saddened by the passing of Bob Taylor. We extend heartfelt condolences to his family.

Bob is remembered for his leadership in both the Village of Bible Hill and the Municipality of Colchester. He was a Village Commissioner from 1987 to 1997 and served as Chairman from 1993 to 1997. He then became a member of Colchester Council where he served as Councillor from 1997-2008 and then as Mayor from 2008 until 2016.

He was always actively involved in the community, especially with the volunteer fire service as a member of Bible Hill Fire Brigade, as well as in local sport and recreation. Among his many contributions, he was a proponent for several important developments in the region including the Rath Eastlink Community Centre.

Bob's vision, passion for serving the community, and common-sense approach served the Village and County well. We are grateful for his dedicated service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's family at this very difficult time. May you be uplifted with fond memories and comforted by those around you.

# Engage with us!



## Photo Contest

Are you an amateur photographer in the making? We are looking to feature local photos of what's happening in Colchester! Submit your photos to [photos@colchester.ca](mailto:photos@colchester.ca) and you will be entered to win a Colchester swag bag and could be featured in our next newsletter edition. All photos must be submitted by **May 1, 2023** to be entered to win!



## We are Hiring!

Colchester is growing – which means we're hiring! Keep an eye on our website for casual recreation positions, annual seasonal positions and some exciting permanent positions. If you thrive in a welcoming and fast-paced environment, we want you to work with us! Visit [colchester.ca/news/jobs/](https://colchester.ca/news/jobs/).

## CARBON-FREE colchester

### Volunteer Opportunity

The Municipality of Colchester is seeking community representatives to fill seats on the Carbon-Free Colchester Implementation Committee.

Let's create a resilient and sustainable Colchester together!

For more information visit [colchester.ca/carbon-free](https://colchester.ca/carbon-free)

*Connect with us online!*



@ColchesterNS



@colchestercounty



@MunColchester

colchester.ca

