



Colchester

Newsletter

Hello Colchester!

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

Photo of Balmoral Grist Mill by David and Skylar (@daveyandsky)

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Follow us on Social Media to see real-time updates on what we're up to!



CHECK THIS OUT!

Thanks to Edward Sampson for submitting this photo from the Brookfield Wetlands Trail! He was one of the winners from our first photo contest. To see a photo from our other winner, and for more information on how to win a Colchester Swag Bag, see the back page!

Be centred here.

From the Mayor's Desk



Photo Above - Bible Hill Fire Brigade Presentation to Mayor Blair. L to R: Chief Joey Bisson; Mayor Blair; Deputy David Pearston; Deputy Justine Maybee

First, I want to acknowledge the 3rd Anniversary of the tragic events of April 18 and 19, 2020, and the recent release of the Mass Casualty Commission's Report. These have been weighing heavily on our minds and our hearts. Our thoughts continue to be with the families and survivors. Community safety is key for our residents, along with ongoing, long-term trauma, grief, and mental health support.

Our post-Fiona recovery efforts are finally complete. Over 2,210 kms of roads were travelled to pick up tree debris at over 17,900 civic addresses. A total of 3,014 tonnes was delivered to Kemptown. Colchester County has submitted cost recovery through the Federal Disaster Management Funding Program.

In 2019, the Province introduced legislation that requires all municipalities to adopt a comprehensive Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for the whole of their area by the end of 2024. As a result, a community engagement process has begun to inform Colchester's strategy. I encourage all to participate in the open houses, pop-up events, survey, and stakeholder engagement sessions that are part of the process.

I recently returned from Amman, Jordan where I participated in the closing event of a six-year program we have been involved with through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The Jordan Municipal Support Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), involved 11 Canadian municipalities sharing expertise with 12 municipalities located in the central and southern regions of Jordan. Among the goals of the project was to improve solid waste management delivery. Colchester County was selected to participate in the project due to our extensive expertise in this area.

It was an honour for me to receive a plaque and flowers from the Bible Hill Fire Brigade for "dedication and commitment" to the brigade and to firefighters. Thank you, all.

On behalf of Council, staff and residents, I want to extend congratulations and thank our Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Simonds, who is retiring at the end of June after 7 plus years of dedication, professionalism and service to our organization.

Our Director of Corporate Services, Scott Fraser, will serve as Interim CAO beginning June 1st until a new CAO is hired, probably early fall.

Kind regards to all,
Christine Blair, Mayor

The Canadian representatives of the Jordan Municipal Support Project, Amman, Jordan. L to R: Councillor Kathy Jeffery, Collingwood, ON; Pascal Levoie, FCM Ottawa; Mayor Christine Blair, Colchester County; Councillor Randy Goulden, Yorkton, SK; Russ Smith, BC; Linda Glenday, CAO, Squamish, BC.



Be centred here.



No Change to Colchester Tax Rates

Colchester County Council approved its 2023/24 operating budget on April 27, 2023, with no increase to the residential or commercial tax rates. This is the fifth year of the last six that the Municipality has been able to keep its rates the same, with just a half cent increase in 2019. Residential properties will continue to pay \$0.885 and commercial properties \$2.28, per 100 dollars of assessment as determined by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), the independent, not-for-profit organization that is responsible for assessing all property in Nova Scotia.

“Increased property assessments and dedicated fiscal prudence are the primary reasons we have been able to cope with ever-rising costs without increasing our tax rates the past number of years,” stated Colchester Mayor, Christine Blair. “Investment in contingency reserve funds, and long-term forecasting have also contributed greatly to our stable financial position.”

This year’s \$38.7 million budget supports the Municipality’s quality core programs and services and continues to invest in critical infrastructure and economic development initiatives. Some notable investments include rural broadband internet, Debert Business Park and Airport, Fundy Discovery Site, the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, Carbon-Free Colchester Initiatives and other partnerships such as the Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP), the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, as well as future housing initiatives.

Numerous community organizations will again receive support through the County’s extensive not-for-profit grant programs. “Community groups are critical to providing important services and facilities in our Municipality that we may not otherwise be able to afford,” added Mayor Blair. “We are pleased to support the dedicated volunteers working hard to make our communities better.”

Each year the County’s operating budget is set within a context of competing needs, requests, opportunities, and anticipated revenues. Some costs and revenue streams are not within the Municipality’s control. Over 43% of taxes collected by the Municipality will be transferred to the Provincial Government for services such as schools, housing, libraries, assessment services, corrections, and policing. This leaves the Municipality with \$22 million dollars to deliver County-wide services such as sewage treatment, solid waste management, environmental planning, and recreation services.

Policing costs to the Municipality went up 6.04% contributing to the total 7% increase in required mandatory payments to the Province, which amounted to \$16.7 Million. Retroactive pay for a new policing contract negotiated by the Federal government remains a concern on the horizon as well. “The new contract was negotiated without our input, and unfortunately it looks like we will eventually have to foot the bill,” said Director of Corporate Services, Scott Fraser. “It’s uncertain at this time what the full impact might be, but I anticipate it will be significant and something we will inevitably have to deal with.”

Despite challenges, Colchester County experienced significant growth in 2022 with \$97 million in new building development compared to the previous 5-year average of \$59 million. Permit applications and subdivision plans also increased 25% over the previous year. Council remains optimistic about the Municipality’s future with much to look forward to in 2023.

Be centred here.

Community Development



Plan It Colchester

Our County-wide planning project is well underway! We're in the initial consultation phase for Plan It Colchester and are receiving some great input from residents about what they love in their community (Trails! Nature! Rural atmosphere!) and their vision for the future. A series of Open Houses and Pop Up events are now underway to provide more information for residents, and we also have an online survey and interactive map which will be available until the end of the initial engagement period in late May. If you haven't had the chance to participate and want to explore the engagement opportunities, or simply wish to learn more about the project – check out the website at colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester.

This is only the first phase of this exciting project and community input will continue to be vital along the way. The input from the initial phase of consultation will heavily inform the direction of the new planning documents. There will be another phase of engagement once the draft Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land use By-law (LUB) are ready for public review. Community members will have the opportunity to share their feedback directly and ensure that these documents are reflective of the community's vision for itself and its future. A final opportunity for public input will then be available when the new MPS and LUB go for final adoption with Council late in 2024.

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! We hope you'll take advantage of this important and exciting opportunity to help shape the future of Colchester County for years to come and ensure that the vision for growth and development is led by the experts in the community – the residents!

colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester



Climate Crew Event

The Municipality of Colchester and the Truro Library are teaming up to offer a Soil Health & DIY Soda Bottle Terrarium event for the community to promote growing and eating local!

Student volunteers from the Colchester Climate Crew will be hosting the event on May 27th from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm at the Truro Library. This is a family-friendly, drop-in event to learn about soil health, gardening, and local food; obtain a free soil test kit; and join us to create your own soda bottle terrarium! A subject expert will be on site to answer questions on soil health and best practices to make your garden thrive, and information will be supplied on community gardens in Colchester County. The event will be first come, first served, while supplies last! Bring your own 2L soda bottle if you can.



Get a FREE Home Energy Assessment!

A professional Home Energy Assessment (HEA) can help you learn about your home's efficiency and energy consumption. A certified energy advisor will evaluate your home from attic to foundation, measuring insulation levels, air tightness, and more. You will receive a summary of your home's energy use, a checklist of recommended upgrades, and an EnerGuide rating. Homeowners in the Municipality of Colchester can arrange a free HEA through the County (\$200 value; excludes Town of Truro, Town of Stewiacke, and Millbrook First Nation). Call 902-920-0615 to book.



Truro Home & Outdoor Show



Public Works

Driveway and Frontage Permits

Do I need a permit to install a driveway and fill in my ditch? The simple answer is yes. But who issues that permit is where it can get tricky. The colour of the road sign will determine who is responsible for issuing these types of permits.

If you live on a County owned road, which is identified by a blue coloured street sign, then we would issue the permits. You can contact our Public Works Office at 902-897-3175 to confirm road ownership and get a permit application.

If you live on a Provincially owned road where the street sign is green, you will need to contact the Nova Scotia Public Works Operations Centre at 1-844-696-7737 for more information.

Water and Sewer Permits

Depending on the location of your home, you may be able to connect to municipal water and/or sewer.

The County supplies water only to the communities of Debert and Tatamagouche. If a public water line crosses in front of your home and you want to connect to it, you will require a permit from us. For more information, call 902-897-3175. The Town of Truro supplies water to the residents in the Bible Hill area. Contact the Town Office at 902-895-4243 for more information. If you are outside of Debert, Tatamagouche, and Bible Hill, you will need your own private well on your property. Contact Nova Scotia Environment at 902-893-5880 for more information.

The County provides sewer services in the communities of Bible Hill, Brookfield, Debert, Great Village, Hilden, North River, Onslow, Salmon River, Tatamagouche, Truro Heights and Valley. Contact the County Public Works Office at 902-897-3175 to find out if there is a public sewer in your area and how you can get a permit to connect. If you are not located in a sewer serviced area, you will need a private on-site septic system and can contact Nova Scotia Environment at 902-893-5880 for more information.



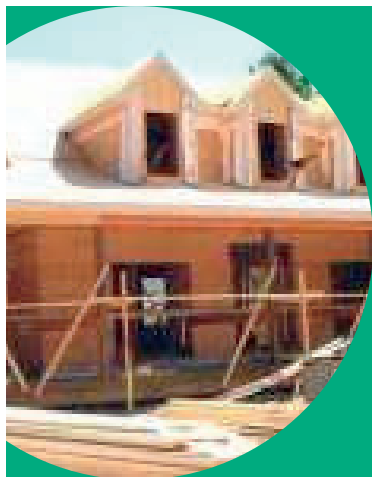
Building and Development Permits

Planning on building a new home, garage, shed, or deck? If so, you will need a building permit from our Community Development Office. Building Permits are required in most cases for new construction or upgrades to existing structures.

If you live in a zoned area and plan to build something new such as a fence or a pool, you will also need a Development Permit. This permit is free of charge and makes sure you have all the necessary approvals required before a building permit is issued.

For more information on Building and Development Permits, contact our Community Development Office at 902-897-3170.

Fees for all our permits can be found in our Municipal Fees Policy on our website at colchester.ca/administration/policies.





Colchester

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

May 2023

23
TUES

Council Meeting

6 PM

27
SAT

Climate Crew Event

1:30 PM

For more information, see page 4

June 2023

Watch your mailboxes this month for your
2023-2024 Property Tax Bills

03
SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert

Colchester Bike Week Begins

06
TUES

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

08
THURS

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

10
SAT

Mobile Hazardous Waste Drop-off

RECC Parking Lot, 625 Abenaki Road 9 AM - 1 PM

24
SAT

Paper Shredding Event

RECC Parking Lot, 625 Abenaki Road 9 AM - 12 PM

27
TUES

Council Meeting

6 PM

July 2023

01
Sat

Balefill Closure

Canada Day Holiday

03

MON

Municipal Office Closure

Canada Day Holiday

08

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert

August 2023

01

TUES

Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

05

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert

07

MON

Municipal Office Closure

Natal Day Holiday

17

THURS

Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

31

THURS

Council Meeting 6 PM

Property Tax Bills Due

September 2023

04

MON

Municipal Office Closure

Labour Day Holiday

05

TUES

Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

09

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert

14

THURS

Council Committee Meeting 6 PM



Colchester



Solid Waste

Important Holiday Reminders

- The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facility will be closed
- Saturday, July 1st and Monday, July 3rd for Canada Day
 - Monday, September 4th for Labour Day

Proper Disposal of Sharps

An orange juice box filled with needles made its way onto our sorting line here at the Materials Recovery Facility, with one needle sticking out. Sharps must be handled properly for the safety of collection and line workers. Do not place sharps in plastic bottles, juice boxes, recycling or garbage bags for disposal. For your safety and the safety of others, sharps should only be placed in a Safe Sharps Container.



Safe Sharps containers can be picked up for free at your local pharmacy and returned to the pharmacy once full.

Colchester Fall Compost Giveaway

Free compost will be available during Waste Reduction Week – October 16th to October 21st



Colchester Balefill Facility

188 Mingo Road, Exit 18 Highway 104 Kempton

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 Kempton

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.

AFTER HOURS DUMPING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. As per the Solid Waste By-law Chapter 33, 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 comes with a fine of up to \$5,000.

Engage with us on Social Media!

 @ColchesterWRM

 @ColchesterWRM

 @ColchesterWRM



Recreation



The 17th Annual Bike Week takes place June 3rd-11th with fun, free events, and helpful safe cycling tips! Check our website for details.

Join us on the trail for breathtaking scenery and a fast, flat, and fun run! Register for the 5K, 10K, or Half Marathon at raceroster.com.

Fun in the Sun Day Camps will be back in July and August. Each week is packed with fun outdoor games, group activities, sports, theme days and more to keep your kids active this summer.

Colchester County Trails...Pathways to Active Adventures!

Adventures await on the wonderful trails in Colchester County. With more than 100 km of walking and cycling trails to explore, our County has something for everyone. Walk to your heart's content along the seacoast. Hike to waterfalls in the hills. Run like the wind through the park. Bike where train whistles used to blow. Stroll beside wonderful wetlands. Relax by the brook or the bay. Explore a new trail this summer! To plan your next trail adventure, visit colchester.ca/trails and novascotiatrials.cioc.ca.

Note that some trails remain closed due to Hurricane Fiona damage. When enjoying your trail adventure, please stay on designated trails, respect all posted signs and trail closures, respect other trail users, and keep your dog on leash. Happy Trails!



Engage with us on Social!

For real time updates and news, follow us on:

 @MunColRec

or visit our website @ colchester.ca



Odds & Ends

Civic Address Signs

Municipal Council has recently passed a by-law requiring all residents to have a civic number sign posted at the end of their driveway. For this reason, we will now be issuing blue address civic signs along with each building permit for new home construction within the county. The cost for these signs will be built into the fee for a building permit.

For more information, visit our website at colchester.ca/administration/by-laws and check out the Civic Addressing By-law.



Dogs Running at Large

As per the Municipality's Dog By-law, dogs are considered running at large when they leave their property and are not under their owner's complete control. The By-law also states that the Municipality may designate any park, trail, or area of land owned by the Municipality, marked by signage, prohibiting dogs from being off leash.

The Municipality has posted signs like the one here at some municipal parks and trails as a reminder to dog owners to keep your dog on leash and pick up after your pet. Dog owners, please do your part to ensure enjoyable public spaces, for the benefit of all park visitors and trail users.

For more information, a copy of this By-law can be found on our website at colchester.ca/administration/by-laws.



TAAC Grounds Revitalization Project

Become part of the solution: support active community living and a healthy lifestyle. This project will not succeed without the support of like-minded community advocates. The TAAC Revitalization is being supported by Town of Truro, Municipality of Colchester, Federal and Provincial Governments and many sponsors/supporters. Together let's make the next 100 years as great for our youth as our forefathers did for us.

Follow TAAC Revitalization Project for more updates on Facebook (@TAACREVITALIZATIONPROJECT).

To help donate to the TAAC Grounds please contact us at: TAACProject2022@gmail.com.



A Message From the RCMP



Diverse and Inclusive Pre-Cadet Experience

The Diverse and Inclusive Pre-Cadet Experience (DICE) is a new RCMP recruitment and retention initiative focused on removing systematic barriers that impact racialized and underrepresented persons who aspire to join the RCMP.

- Newcomers to Canada (i.e. new Canadian citizens or permanent residents)
- Persons from diverse ethnic and cultural groups
- Members from a visible minority and persons from racialized communities

The program is a three-week training session hosted at the RCMP Academy, Depot Division, in Regina, Saskatchewan.

As a DICE candidate, you'll learn:

- how to work as part of a policing team
- an introduction to the Criminal Code and RCMP policy
- physical fitness and drill
- skills to help prepare you to apply to be a police officer

Once candidates have completed the program there is ongoing support and guidance as they go through the RCMP's police officer application process.

Requirements to apply:

- be 19 years of age or older
- recently (within 3 years) immigrated to Canada
- have permanent resident status in Canada
- be of good character
- be able to pass an enhanced reliability security check
- be in good physical condition

Cost

The program costs are covered 100% by the RCMP including travel, uniform, meals and accommodations.

How to apply

To get more information, or to learn how to apply, please email the program mailbox at rcmp.dice-ecdi.grc@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Be centred here.

RCMP-GRC
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

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UN UNIFORME À VOTRE NOM VOUS ATTEND

rcmpcareers.ca carrieresgrc.ca

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"H" Division RCMP Recruiting Bureau de recrutement de la GRC Division "H"
Email: HdivRecruiting@rcmp-grc.gc.ca Courriel: HdivRecruiting@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Call: 1-877-726-7472 or 902-720-5636 Composez: 1-877-726-7472 ou 902-720-5636

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmes royaux du Canada Canada

Colchester Fire Service Profile Great Village Fire Brigade

<u>Established:</u>	1925
<u>Chief Officers:</u>	Fire Chief Gregg Kinsman Deputy Chief Joe Slack
<u>Number of Stations:</u>	2 (Great Village and Londonderry)
<u>Number of Members:</u>	33
<u>Number of Calls in 2022:</u>	163
<u>Number of Apparatus:</u>	7
<u>Servicing Communities:</u>	Great Village Londonderry Glenholme Folly Lake Folly Mountain East Village Lornevale Highland Village
<u>Membership Inquiries:</u>	Drop by the Great Village Station on Wednesday evenings



Engage with us!

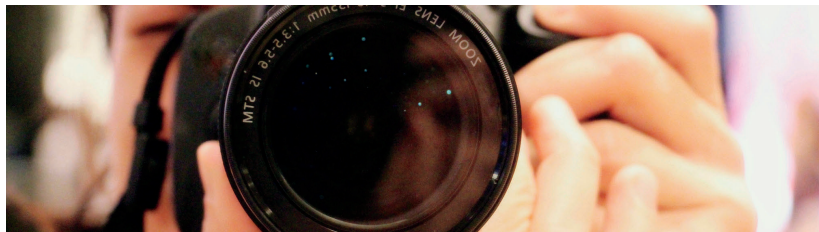


Photo Contest

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 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 September 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/.

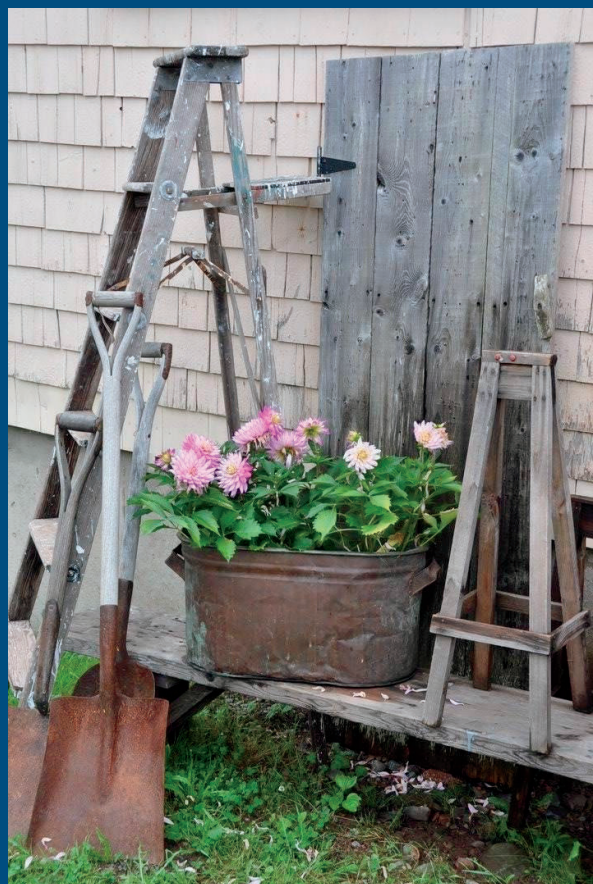


Photo Contest Winner - Antiquing in Colchester County by Trish Sproule

Connect with us online!



@ColchesterNS



@colchestercounty



@MunColchester

colchester.ca

