



# Colchester

## Newsletter

### Hello Colchester!

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

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### Hello from Mayor Blair! 2

Read about what's happening in Colchester, straight from the Mayor's office!

#### Feature Story 3

New CAO for Colchester County

#### Department Updates

Solid Waste Pg. 4 Recreation Pg. 5  
Community Development Pg. 8 Public Works Pg. 9

#### Dates to Remember! 6

Mark your calendars - here's a list of all the things happening in Colchester this Fall

#### Tax Office 10

Find out your options for paying your tax bill

#### 72 Hours - Are You Prepared? 11

#### Stay in the Loop! 12

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



### CHECK THIS OUT!

Thanks to Cindy Ryan for submitting this photo from the Portapique River! She was the latest winner of our photo contest. For more information on how to win a Colchester Swag Bag, and have your photo featured in our newsletter, see the back page!

*Be centred here.*



# From the Mayor's Desk

Above Photo, L to R: Chief Bob Gloade, Millbrook First Nation (co-host); Mayor Bill Mills, Town of Truro; Mayor Christine Blair, Municipality of Colchester; Norman Sylliboy, Grand Chief of Mi'kmaq Grand Council.

We are in September, summer is waning and children are back at school. I hope everyone had a good summer, spent time with family and friends, and had some time to relax.

We experienced a drought at the beginning of summer with wildfires that are seldom seen in our province. Fortunately, no human lives were lost. July and August saw rainstorms causing severe water and flash flooding. Condolences were sent on the loss of four individuals in West Hants, another heartbreaking tragedy in Nova Scotia.

Our Regional Emergency Management team, under the guidance of our Emergency Management Coordinator, Dave Westlake, has updated our plans to better enable us for future emergencies. A special thank you to Dave, and representatives from the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke who are working collaboratively with our Municipality for the safety of our residents.

2023-24 Capital Budget: Colchester's capital budget is projected over five years so that we can plan ahead for large projects such as sewer line expansions and replacements, pumping station replacements, solar installations, and sidewalks. Expected costs for this fiscal year is \$9 million with projected capital expenditures over our five-year plan, at this time, being \$59 million. To be sustainable, we must be careful to add monies to reserves for future projects and potential unexpected expenses.

Colchester's Chief Administrative Officer: The Municipality of Colchester was pleased to announce Dan Troke as its new Chief Administrative Officer, effective September 25, 2023.

Our CAO (Interim), Scott Fraser, who is our Director of Corporate Services as well, has done a stellar job, in his usual professional and efficient manner, for the interim period. A special thank you to Scott on behalf of Council and our residents.

In Closing: In July, North Nova Family Medicine welcomed new medical residents to this area that will be working in Antigonish, Amherst, New Glasgow and Truro. We welcome them and hope some will stay in this area as family physicians.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition re-opened this year as a smaller event, but this is seen as new beginnings for this traditional agricultural fair and community event.

Congratulations to Millbrook First Nation on three successful events this summer: the North American Indigenous Games with 5,000 young athletes; the Millbrook Powwow with people coming from across Canada and the US; and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Summer Games, a provincial event.

On September 1st, with 15 others, I was named to the Mass Casualty Commission's Progress Monitoring Committee, as a municipal representative for Colchester, Cumberland and Hants Counties. Seven of those named lost family members on the weekend of April 18 and 19, 2020. These appointments were Ministerial through the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Federal Minister of Public Safety; and the Hon. Brad Johns, Provincial Minister of Justice.

There are a lot of open house events at our local fire stations this time of year. Please drop by to say hello and thank our volunteer firefighters and first responders for the amazing job they do for our communities throughout Colchester.

Finally, on September 30th, our Municipal building will be illuminated in orange for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We honour the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. Our thoughts are with those most deeply affected by this tragic and painful history.

Kind regards to all,  
Christine Blair, Mayor

*Be centred here.*





## Chief Administrative Officer Announcement

The Municipality of Colchester is pleased to announce Dan Troke as its new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), effective September 25, 2023.

Troke brings over 25 years of leadership and operational experience in municipal government, delivering federally and provincially regulated programs, and building collaborative relationships with strategic partners. He has a proven track record in developing public policy, financial, asset, and human resource management, and is an experienced public speaker.

He comes to Colchester as a former CAO for the towns of Kentville and Pictou; a former Chief Executive Officer for Niagara Regional Housing; President and Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer for Housing Nova Scotia; and has worked with the Nova Scotia Departments of Community Services, Agriculture, and Finance.

“We are very pleased to have selected Dan Troke as our new CAO. Dan is a Nova Scotian with an impressive career, having worked with municipal, provincial, and federal orders of government. He has strong leadership skills, has experience in dealing with large budgets, working in municipal government, and with other partners. Dan also has strong interpersonal skills, is family oriented, and community minded. These are all attributes that we were looking for in a CAO and we are sure he will be a good fit for our Municipality. We welcome him and look forward to his arrival in late September,” says Mayor Christine Blair.

Originally from Cape Breton, Troke is a seasoned leader through both his experience and education. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree through St. Mary’s University, and Bachelor of Business Administration through the University College of Cape Breton. With Executive Leadership Development Program and Regional Emergency Management training, a Diploma in Management Accounting, and his technical abilities, he comes to Colchester with the many skills needed as CAO.

*Be centred here.*



“I am both humbled and excited to have been appointed the CAO for the Municipality of Colchester. To have the opportunity to remain in my home province and continue my career in public service is indeed very gratifying. In particular, I am looking forward to advancing Council’s priorities and working with a knowledgeable and experienced staff as we respond to the needs of our citizens and the business community,” says Troke.

Please join us in welcoming Dan Troke to the Municipality of Colchester.



# Solid Waste



## Fall Compost Giveaway

Free compost is available during Waste Reduction Week – October 16th to October 21st.

Compost is available while quantities last, please check our website for updates on availability.

Residents can purchase bagged compost for \$2.00 per bag. Bags are provided, but remember to bring your own shovel, and wear appropriate footwear and gloves.

Compost is also available for bulk sale at a cost of \$35.00 per metric tonne.



## Care and Repair Market

Saturday, October 14th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Truro Fire Hall.

Volunteers include:  
Bicycle repair  
Jewelry repair  
Tool sharpener and more

This is a FREE event for Colchester residents to extend the life of items by repairing instead of replacing them.

## 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.

## 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!





# Recreation

## Women's Learn 2 Play Hockey

Brookfield Sportsplex beginning Monday, October 16th  
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
\$180 for 25 weeks

For information visit  
[colchester.ca/womens-recreational-hockey](http://colchester.ca/womens-recreational-hockey)

Pre-register at  
[mysporthub.ca](http://mysporthub.ca)

## Women's 4 on 4 Hockey

Games for experienced players every Sunday at  
Deuille's Rink in Salmon River.  
League Fee \$240, Goalie \$50

For information visit  
[colchester.ca/womens-recreational-hockey](http://colchester.ca/womens-recreational-hockey)

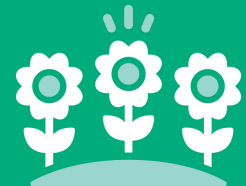
Register at  
[mysporthub.ca](http://mysporthub.ca)

## Heart's Haven Memorial Park

A Grand Opening Celebration was held on July 23rd in Debert at a very special municipal park. Heart's Haven Memorial Park was created in loving memory of Kristen and Baby Beaton and Heather O'Brien. This beautiful park features colourful flower gardens, a very fun playground with a sand play area, and several picnic areas. A 900m walking trail, which connects the gardens and playground, winds through the forest and over a shaded brook, with many benches along the way.

To everyone involved in the creation of this park – individuals, businesses, organizations and the Province of Nova Scotia – thank you for your wonderful and generous support!

Heart's Haven Memorial Park is located at 1640 Plains Road (playground parking area) and 1680 Plains Road (garden parking area) in Debert.



## Volunteer Award

Congratulations to Jeffrey Cameron, Colchester County's 2023 Provincial Volunteer of the Year.

Jeff represented Colchester County at the Provincial Awards Ceremony in Halifax on September 25, 2023.





# Colchester

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

## September 2023

**28** Council Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

**30** Balefill Closure  
SAT Truth and Reconciliation Day

## October 2023

**02** Municipal Office Closure  
MON Truth and Reconciliation Day

**03** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
TUES Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

**09** Municipal Office Closure  
MON Thanksgiving Day

**12** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

**14** Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off  
SAT Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert - 9 AM - 1 PM

**16** Waste Reduction Week Begins  
MON Until October 21st

**26** Council Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

## November 2023

**04** Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off  
SAT Clean Harbors Ltd., Debert - 9 AM - 1 PM

**06** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
MON Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

**11** Balefill Closure  
SAT Remembrance Day

**13** Municipal Office Closure  
MON Remembrance Day

**16** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

**30** Council Meeting 6 PM  
THURS

**December 2023**

**05** Council Committee Meeting  
TUES Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)



**Colchester**

## Colchester RCMP-GRC

Between January 1 and June 30, 2023 the Colchester County RCMP-GRC responded to 4,638 operational occurrences.

A sample of files investigated include;

- 86 False Residential/Commercial Alarms
- 36 Persons Reported Missing
- 365 Motor Vehicle Collisions
- 372 Crimes Against Persons (Assault – all types)
- 677 Crimes Against Property (Mischief/Thefts/Frauds etc.)
- 64 Firearms Seized
- 91 Prisoners Held in Custody
- 38 Persons Charged with Impaired Driving
- 66 Road Check Points
- 3 prisoners on warrants returned to Colchester, NS from elsewhere in Canada, via RCMP
- 2 prisoners arrested in Colchester, NS and returned to elsewhere in Canada, via RCMP

Colchester RCMP-GRC also completed 1,386 Criminal Record Checks for the public during this time.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada



# Community Development



## Plan It Colchester

The initial community engagement phase of Plan It Colchester, County Wide Planning, has wrapped up. The project team hosted a series of engagement activities between March and July 2023, where participants were invited to share their perspectives and insights on land use and their vision for the future of Colchester. To ensure that the findings accurately represented the diverse population of Colchester, multiple methods of engagement were used, including:

- Planning Advisory Committee & Municipal Council Engagement
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Agricultural Sector Engagement
- Open Houses & Pop Up Events
- Online Group Discussions
- Online Interactive Mapping Activity
- Public Survey
- Abutting Municipalities & First Nations Engagement

### Next Steps

The information gathered during the engagement phase will be used to create draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law documents which will reflect the feedback we received. The draft documents will coincide with a new round of public engagement where the public will have more opportunities to share their thoughts.



## Solar Colchester + Cozy Colchester

The Municipality of Colchester's financing programs, Cozy Colchester and Solar Colchester, relaunched on September 18, 2023 and are now ready to start processing your home energy efficiency projects!

### Program details:

#### Loans up to \$30,000

To a maximum of 25% of your home's taxable assessed value.

#### No Credit Checks

We evaluate your property tax payment history to determine eligibility.

#### Free Home Energy Assessments

A home energy assessment will provide a comprehensive overview of your home's energy usage. A pre and post-upgrade home energy assessment is required to qualify for provincial and federal rebates.

#### 4.75% Interest Rate Loans

Plus, a one-time program administration fee of 5% that can be made payable upfront or over the duration of the loan. Administration fees are waived for income-qualified homeowners.

#### No Upfront Costs

The Municipality will pay your contractor when the project is complete, and you will make monthly payments to the Municipality over a 10 or 15 year loan term.

#### Access to an Energy Concierge

Our Energy Concierges will provide administrative support throughout the process, including rebate navigation and rebate-qualified equipment checks, paperwork, and support finding a contractor.

Call 902-920-0615 to get enrolled today! For more information visit [cozycolchester.ca](http://cozycolchester.ca) or [solarcolchester.ca](http://solarcolchester.ca). Funding will be available on a first come, first served basis.



### Stay Up To Date

To learn more and get the latest updates on the Plan It Colchester Project, visit the project webpage to learn about upcoming engagement opportunities

[colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester](http://colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester)





# Public Works



## Foundation Drains and Ditches

Do your foundation drains connect to the roadside ditch? If yes, help protect yourself by making sure you have a backflow valve installed on the drains. This will prevent water from traveling from the ditch into your basement when the ditches are running full.

Also remember to keep your foundation drain clear of snow in the winter to prevent it from freezing.

## Frontage Culverts

Has the ditch along the front of your property been filled-in? If your lawn extends to the edge of the gravel shoulder, there is a good chance that your ditch has been filled-in either by you or a previous property owner. Whether you live on a County Road or a Provincial Road, you need a permit to fill in your ditch.

Before a ditch is filled-in, a pipe needs to be installed to carry the water away. An inlet grate also needs to be installed above this pipe to catch water from the road and your lawn. In the photo to the right, you can see where an inlet grate has been installed incorrectly as it is not capturing water from the road shoulder. The inlet should be lowered to make sure that any water that used to enter the ditch can now enter the buried pipe below. When water pools along the road shoulder, it can cause the shoulder to become soft and the asphalt to break. It can also cause icy conditions in the winter. If the ditch along your property has been filled-in, the maintenance of the buried pipe and the inlet grate is your responsibility. Please help us keep our roads in good condition by making sure your buried ditches are working properly.



## Help Keep Grease Out of Our Sewers!

Grease from your kitchen should never be poured down the drain. Over time, grease hardens in your plumbing and in our sewer pipes, which can lead to expensive sewer backups.

Running hot water down the pipe with your grease just moves the problem farther downstream, but it doesn't go away. In the photo, you will see grease being pushed out of a private home connection into our main line. Crews were called to this property due to a sewer blockage and took this photo from inside the sewer main line while they were cleaning. Dispose of grease, butter, peanut butter, shortening and other fatty foods in your composter – help keep our sewer pipes running smoothly!



# Tax Office

## Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2023/2024 property tax bills were due on August 31, 2023. Outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.00% per month.

### 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 St, Truro between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

### Paymentus - Bill Payments by Credit Cards

The Municipality has partnered with Paymentus Corporation to bring you the convenience of paying by credit card online. Paymentus Corporation is a third-party automated payment service that accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Amex.

- You can pay your bill right away, any time, on our website at [colchester.ca/paymentus-online-payments](https://colchester.ca/paymentus-online-payments)
- Paymentus will charge a service fee of 2.50% for each transaction, Colchester does not collect this fee
- We cannot accept credit cards in person or over the telephone

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

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

### Did You Know?

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

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

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

## Tax Sale

The tax sale list will be made available in October 2023 with the proposed tax sale date being in November 2023. Check local papers and our website at [colchester.ca/tax-sales](https://colchester.ca/tax-sales) for the list and updated information as it becomes available.





# 72 Hours - Are You Prepared?

Emergency Management personnel strongly encourage citizens to be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least the first 72 hours after an emergency or disaster occurs. This timeframe is critical as it can take emergency response agencies some time to reach you. The best way to be prepared is to remember these 3 key points.



### Know Your Risks

As residents in your community, you are familiar with the events that are possible. Whether your region is susceptible to flooding, extended power outages, hurricanes, transportation accidents or another event, it is always best to know what the risks in your community are.



### Make a Plan

Every household should have some type of emergency plan. These plans can be created in as little as 20 minutes and are the best way to ensure that the people in the household can contact each other if they are not together when an emergency strikes. Emergency plans often contain household safety plans, plans for your pets, special health needs plans and emergency contacts.



### Prepare Emergency Kits

These kits should have the basic needs to sustain yourself and your family for that crucial first 72 hours. A basic kit should include at least 2 litres per day of water per person, foods that do not spoil, a copy of your emergency plan, contact information, a battery or windup radio and flashlight, extra keys for the vehicles and house, cash (smaller bills) and change, first aid kit, cell phone chargers and a manual can opener if you use canned goods. This kit should be stored in one location that is easily accessible and everyone knows where to find it. Note: food and water need to be replaced annually.

Once you have your family's emergency kit ready, consider preparing an emergency kit for your vehicles and your pets.

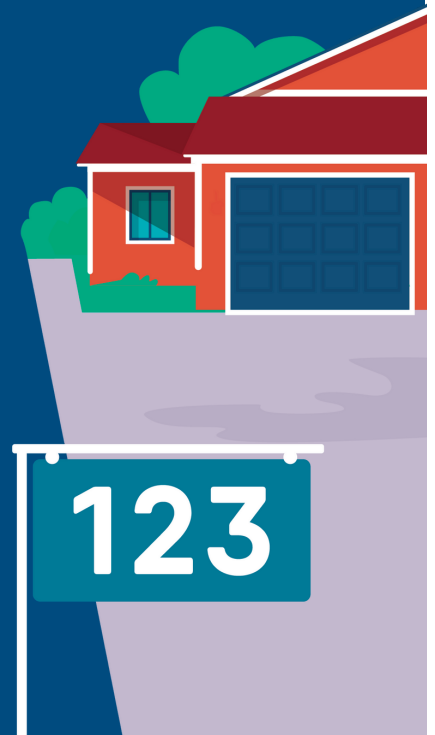
If you want more information on how to be best prepared, please view the Government of Canada's Get Prepared site at [getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx](http://getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx) or visit the Municipality's site at [colchester.ca/emergency-management](http://colchester.ca/emergency-management).

## Civic Signs

The Municipality of Colchester now issues blue civic signs with each building permit for all new buildings in the County. The charge for these civic address signs is built into the building permit fee.

Civic Signs	\$25
Optional Metal Stake	\$20

This is keeping in-line with the Civic Addressing By-law, which requires all building owners to have a blue civic sign posted at the end of their driveway or in a visible place on the building. For more information, please visit our website at [colchester.ca/community-development](http://colchester.ca/community-development) or call Joy Hewitt, Property Information Clerk at 902-843-4169.



## Happy Retirement!

Congratulations to Therin Smith who recently retired from the County after 27 years of service at our Wastewater Treatment Facility.



# 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 November 1, 2023 to be entered to win!



## Connect with us online!



@ColchesterNS



@colchestercounty



@MunColchester



colchester.ca



## Accessibility & Inclusion

Do you, or someone you know, have challenges accessing municipal information or services, or participating in programs or community engagement opportunities (for example a visual or hearing impairment, mobility, or cognitive challenge)? Please contact Devin Trefry by calling 902-897-3182 or email [dtrefry@colchester.ca](mailto:dtrefry@colchester.ca) to discuss ways that we may be able to accommodate or assist.