



Colchester Newsletter

Hello Colchester!

Welcome to the Fall 2025 edition of Colchester's newsletter, where we share exciting news, helpful tips and much more with our residents!

Photo by Dianna Fortnum

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Hello from Mayor Blair!

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

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

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CHECK THIS OUT!

Thanks to Matthew MacKay for submitting this photo! They were the winner from our most recent photo contest.

Want to be a winner?

Submit your photos and you will be entered to win a Colchester swag bag and could be featured in our next newsletter edition.

Visit colchester.ca/photo-contest or email photos@colchester.ca to enter!

Be centred here.



From the Mayor's Desk

Mayor's and Chief's Breakfast,
Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce

Municipality of Colchester 2025-26 Capital Budget: Colchester County Council has finalized its 2025-26 budget for capital projects in the coming fiscal year, along with an additional four-year proposed project and budget list of work to be done. This budget is a fluid and flexible plan to accommodate any changes to meet the demands of the work that needs to be done within our County. Added to that, Colchester staff is diligent in applying for grants to stretch our tax dollars.

This year's Capital budget shows payments for the Colchester East Hants Health Centre (hospital) have been completed. Payments for the Rath Eastlink Community Centre will continue for another nine years. Currently, Colchester's financial indicators show our debt load at 4.7%. Municipalities may have up to a 15% debt load. This low debt load is an indication of our Council's and Staff's long-term fiscal responsibility and good management of our tax dollars.

Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark: Exciting news! The Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark's revalidation process, resulted in the success of obtaining a Green Card on a unanimous decision of the Geopark Council. In 2023, when evaluators came to look at the progress of our newly formed Geopark, 10 recommendations for improvement were made, which resulted in the Geopark getting a Yellow Card. That meant we had work to do to meet UNESCO standards for geoparks. The hard work of our Geopark team under the management skills of Devin Trefry and the Geopark staff, along with dedicated Board members, resulted in 8 of those recommendations being fully achieved, and two partially achieved. The evaluators were very pleased with the results and their recommendation was a green card. The UNESCO Council agreed.

A UNESCO Global Geopark recognize areas of geological significance, and are managed under a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Cumberland and Colchester Counties' Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark stretches from Apple River to Lower Truro, 165 km, and 75 communities. There are 5 geoparks in Canada of the 229 worldwide in 50 countries.

Fundy Discovery Site: The Fundy Discovery Site (FDS) project has been a priority of Council since acquisition of the property in 2015. A tourism master plan for the site was completed in 2017, with extensive public consultation, identified several amenities to establish a tourism destination. Even in the early stages of development, the FDS draws in excess of 15,000 local and international visitors annually. The master plan was updated in 2020 and a business plan was prepared, fundydiscoverysite.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2020/12/FDS_Vol2_Feasibility-Study_FINAL.pdf.

The latest plan for the FDS is an active transportation bridge over the Salmon River. While the bridge will serve as an excellent vantage point to view the tidal bore, the primary purpose of the bridge is to enable a safe active transportation connection between communities on the north and south sides of the river and the ability to access provincial Blue Routes and the Cobequid Trail System.

The Municipality has also been implementing recommendations in its Community Energy and Emissions Plan which calls for an expansion of active transportation options. The FDS is a gateway to the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark and as such, the site and its amenities act as a very strong tourism anchor for the region.

Council sees this project as an important economic generator for the local economy and has been incrementally investing in the site. We are excited about the proposed new footbridge, which has come in under budget, and for which we have been approved for Federal and Provincial funding of 73.3%, leaving the cost to Colchester taxpayers at approximately one quarter of the total. We expect the bridge to be completed within three years.

In Closing: Sincere congratulations to the Colchester Food Network on its 40th Anniversary of serving the community for one of the most basic needs. Thank you to the volunteers, staff, and Board members who have so diligently and effectively given of their time. Our heartfelt appreciation and thanks go to you.

Until next time, my kindest regards to all.
Christine Blair

Recreation

Photo by David Andrus

Art Acquisition Program

The Art Acquisition Program returns in November! Colchester Recreation will be accepting art submissions this October for the 2025 Art Show.

We are excited to once again showcase the incredible talent of local artists from Colchester County and celebrate creativity in our community.

Please follow us on Facebook for upcoming details about this program and other events!

Smoke Free Outdoor Recreational Spaces

The Municipality would like to remind everyone that outdoor recreation sites owned and operated by the Municipality of Colchester are smoke free. This means no use of tobacco, cannabis, e-cigarettes and waterpipes.



Council approved a Smoke Free Outdoor Recreational Spaces Policy in 2012. The policy supports healthy lifestyles and community wellness by promoting smoke free outdoor recreational spaces such as parks, playgrounds, sports fields, bleachers, and other outdoor recreational facilities. Thank you for not smoking at these places.

FIND A PARK

Looking to find a municipal park near you? Visit colchester.ca/find-a-park

Not-for-Profit Insurance Funding Program

We are pleased to announce that the NEW online application and financial reporting forms for our Not-for-Profit Insurance Funding Program are now available on our website.

Our insurance program provides vital financial support to eligible not-for-profit community organizations, helping them secure essential Directors & Officers and General Liability Insurance, so they can continue making a meaningful impact in our community.

Application deadline is October 24, 2025.

Connect with Colchester Recreation

Stay connected with Colchester Recreation by following us on Facebook (@MunColRec) and visiting our website at colchester.ca/recreation for the latest updates on a variety of exciting programs offered throughout the Fall/Winter.

Whether you are interested in multisport activities, learning to play hockey, or enjoying open skates at community arenas, there is something for everyone. Plus, check out our equipment loan program, making it easy for everyone to participate in fun and active opportunities.

Contact

Website: colchester.ca/recreation
Phone: 902-897-3150 Option 5
Email: recreation@colchester.ca
Facebook: @MunColRec





Solid Waste

Curbside Collection Updates

Solid Waste Facility Closures

- Tuesday, September 30th** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Monday, October 13th** Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, November 11th** Remembrance Day

IMPORTANT UPDATES

- Collections scheduled for Tuesday, September 30th will take place the Monday AFTER on October 6th.
- Collections scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th will take place the Monday AFTER on November 17th.
- All materials should be curbside before 7:00 am on your collection day, to ensure it is collected.
- All garbage taken to the Balefill Facility, whether residential or business, MUST BE in clear bags or you will be asked to re-bag into clear bags.
- Cash, personal cheques and INTERAC are accepted as payment. Credit cards are NOT accepted.

Oil Recycling Program

Colchester Solid Waste Facility in Kemptown has a New and Improved Oil Recycling Drop-Off Area!

Hours of Operation:
 Monday to Friday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Saturdays – 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

ACCEPTED PRODUCTS

Oils	Filters
Plastic Containers	Antifreeze (Glycols)
Aerosol Containers	

Lightbulb Recycling Program



Lightbulbs are no longer accepted in the garbage. Lightbulbs can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Subway Bottle Exchange - 25 Pictou Road, Bible Hill
- TNT Recycling - 20711 Highway 2, Shubenacadie East
- Clean Harbors - 640 MacElmon Road, Debert (First Saturday of the month, excluding December and January)

Accepted Products

- Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)
- Fluorescent tubes (straight, curved, U, circular, square, etc.)
- High-intensity discharge (HIDs) and special purpose bulbs
- Incandescent and halogen bulbs
- Miniature bulbs
- Light emitting diodes (LEDs)
- Ultra-High Performance (UHP) (replacement projector lamps)
- UV and germicidal bulbs

Contact

Website: colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling
Phone: 902-897-3150 Option 1
Email: helpline@colchester.ca
Instagram: @colchesterwrm

Community Development

Big News for Colchester Homeowners!

Our Cozy Colchester and Solar Colchester energy efficiency loan programs just got even better – we’ve reduced the interest rate from 4.75% to just 2.75%!

Whether you’re thinking about upgrading your heating system, replacing windows and doors, or installing solar panels, this lower rate makes it more affordable to invest in energy-saving improvements before the cold sets in.

REAL PROGRAM PROJECT EXAMPLES

Project Type	Average Loan	Term	Monthly Payment
Insulation & Air Sealing	\$5,285	15 years	\$35.87/month
Ductless Heat Pump	\$13,740	10 years	\$131.10/month
Windows and Doors	\$13,800	15 years	\$93.25/month
Ducted Heat Pump	\$22,197	10 years	\$150.63/month
Solar Energy System	\$30,000	15 years	\$203.59/month

Call one of our energy navigators at 902-920-0615 today to learn more. They can help you every step of the way!

Regional Transit Study

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first round of community engagement in the Spring, including the two public surveys, stakeholder interviews, and stakeholder world café. Over 1,800 responses were received between the two surveys! Your feedback is crucial to help us develop a transit service that meets your needs—so thank you for contributing.

The next phase of community engagement will take place in Fall 2025, giving you the opportunity to comment on proposed transit routes and service options. Stay tuned for more information!

County Wide Planning Documents Now in Effect!

As of June 12th, Colchester’s new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law are in effect across the entire county.

These changes will help shape how our community grows while protecting what makes it special.



WHAT’S CHANGED?

New Zoning

The entire County is now divided into different zones (residential, commercial, agricultural, etc.). Each zone has specific permitted land uses and development requirements. This keeps things organized and helps to protect important land and character.

Approval Required

If you want to build something new or change how you use your property, you’ll need approval. A development permit is required, this means submitting your plans so the County can make sure they follow the rules specified in the By-law.

Visit colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester to explore the new planning documents. Wondering what zone your property is in? Check out our online zoning map! Contact Community Development for help with applications or questions.

Contact

Website: colchester.ca/community-development
Phone: 902-897-3150 Option 4
Email: comdev@colchester.ca



Colchester

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

September 2025

25 **Council Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS See the upcoming agenda @ colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

30 **Municipal Office Closure**
 TUES National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 2025

04 **Household Hazardous Waste Event**
 SAT Clean Harbors, Debert - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

07 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 TUES Presentation Meeting, on as needed basis

13 **Office Closure**
 MON Thanksgiving Day

16 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS See the upcoming agenda @ colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

18 **Fall Compost Giveaway**
 SAT Also happening October 20th-25th
 188 Mingo Road, Kemptown
 See colchester.ca/special-events#compost for times.

30 **Council Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS See the upcoming agenda @ colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

November 2025

TBD Council Committee Presentation Meeting

Watch colchester.ca/municipal-council/council-calendar for the confirmed date

01 Household Hazardous Waste Event

SAT Clean Harbors, Debert - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

11 Office Closure

TUES Remembrance Day

13 Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

THURS See the upcoming agenda @ colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

27 Council Meeting 6 PM

THURS See the upcoming agenda @ colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

Special Days, Observances, & Commemorations

SEPTEMBER

Ukrainian Heritage Day	September 7
Gender Equality Week	September 21-27
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day	September 30

OCTOBER

Mi'kmaq History Month	
Women's History Month	
Latin American Heritage Month	
Canadian Islamic History Month	
National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people	October 4
Yom Kippur (Jewish Holiday)	October 1-2
Diwali (Hindu festival of lights)	October 20
Intersex Awareness Day	October 26

NOVEMBER

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month	
Remembrance Day	November 11



Tourism Development Society

Tourism Nova Scotia
Acorn Art & Photography

Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society

The Municipality of Colchester, Town of Truro, Town of Stewiacke, and Millbrook First Nation are pleased to announce the formation of the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society. This regional partnership is a major step forward in supporting and growing the tourism sector in the region.

The Society is being created to lead the implementation of the Strategic Tourism Expansion Plan (STEP), a regional roadmap for tourism growth developed throughout 2024 and early 2025. This plan outlines how the region can work together to attract more visitors, extend the tourism season and support local businesses. The work of the Society will be funded by revenue collected through the regional tourism marketing levy, a small accommodation fee applied to stays in hotels, inns, and other short-term accommodations across the region. This levy was introduced to help reinvest in tourism marketing and development, and the new Society will guide the use of those funds.

The newly formed Board is comprised of a diverse group of short-term accommodation business owners, community leaders and elected officials from across the region. Members include:

Sam Abushenaf	Owner of LIBCAN Properties
Miriah Kearney	Owner of Seek Wilderness Accommodations
Mark Laughlin	Owner of Wicked Hops
Gillian Lorraine	Owner of Riverbreeze Farm
Kristine Stallman	Owner of Pink Lemonade Creative Media and founder/editor of Sunrise Trail Magazine
Heather Stevens	Manager of the Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre
Chantal Wilson	General Manager of the Hampton Inn & Suites Truro
Carley Gloade	Councillor for Millbrook First Nation
Debra Pryor	Councillor for the Town of Truro
Tim Johnson	Councillor for the Municipality of Colchester
Pam Osborne	Councillor for the Town of Stewiacke



Central Nova Scotia Tourism Marketing Levy

The Board is currently focused on building the structure and tools the Society needs to move forward. One of the next major steps will be hiring a full-time Executive Director. This person will lead the day-to-day work of the Society, putting the tourism plan into action and working under the direction of the Board.

Even in these early stages, progress is already underway. The region is being actively promoted through the Explore Central NS brand, which includes a website and social media presence showcasing the region's unique experiences and attractions. Tourism development sessions for operators and businesses are also being planned for early Fall to help build stronger tourism experiences across the region and support local business growth.

While the Society is still new, the formation of this group marks a major milestone. It shows a shared commitment by all four municipalities to work together and make tourism a stronger, more sustainable part of the region's economy. The Society's work will help ensure that this region continues to grow as a vibrant, welcoming destination - for visitors and residents alike.

More information about the levy, including a copy of the STEP and tourism strategy, can be found at tcmarketinglevy.ca.

Contact

Jennifer Mantin
Economic Development Officer
Municipality of Colchester

Phone: 902-897-3160

Email: jmantin@colchester.ca

Website: tcmarketinglevy.ca.

Tax Office

Property Tax

The Municipality of Colchester's 2025/26 property tax bills were due on

August 29, 2025

Any outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.00% monthly.



Accruing interest means interest will continue to be added on your outstanding property tax bill until it is paid

HOW TO PAY

IN PERSON

Tax Office - 1 Church St, Truro
8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday
Payment Types: Cash, Debit, or Cheque
**Credit cards are NOT accepted in person*
Secure Drop Box at Back Entrance

BANK

Pay Through Your Bank
Payments can be made through online banking or at most banks.
**Use assessment account number as your account number*
Allow 2-3 business days for processing

ONLINE

Pay Online with Paymentus
colchester.ca/payment-options
Payment Accepted: Credit Card
**service fee of 2.5% for each transaction - fee is not collected by the Municipality*

MAIL

Mail To:
1 Church Street, Truro, NS, B2N 3Z5
Payment Accepted: Cheques
**Please note the "Assessment Account Number" in the cheque memo*

Did Not Receive your Tax Bill?

If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact our office to verify your mailing address. It is the responsibility of the resident to ensure that we have your correct mailing address for all property tax bills.

Interest will not be waived due to incorrect addresses.

Pre-authorization Payment Plans

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 instalments.

3 Recurring Payment You choose how much you want withdrawn monthly.

Contact

Website: colchester.ca/finance
Phone: 902-895-3150 Option 3
Email: taxoffice@colchester.ca

Public Works

Springwaters Place Sidewalk Replacement

The County recently completed upgrades to the sidewalk on Springwaters Place between Mosswood Lane and Salmon River Road in Valley. The existing asphalt sidewalk was in poor condition and was replaced with a concrete sidewalk. While most of our sidewalks are concrete, a small number of asphalt sidewalks remain. We continue to work on converting these sidewalks to concrete as budgets permit.

REMINDER

A reminder to residents, the Village of Bible Hill, Town of Truro and Village of Tatamagouche own and maintain their own sidewalks. Sidewalks located outside the Town and Villages in Colchester County are owned and maintained by the County.



Tatamagouche Trunk Sewer Work

Work has begun on the replacement of 450 metres of sewer line in Tatamagouche. We call this the 'Trunk' line as it is the main line that connects most of the Village to the sewage treatment plant. The old clay lines that were installed in the 1970s are in poor shape, allowing groundwater and rainwater to enter the system.

The new lines will be water tight plastic lines and will be upsized to allow for future development in the area.



Sewer Cleaning

The County carries out regular power cleaning of our sewer lines. This can occur as part of regular maintenance or when a sewer line is blocked.

Power cleaning a line involves using a hydro vacuum truck to push high pressure water through the sewer to clear out any materials that have built up over time. Making sure you have a backflow valve on your sewer can help ensure that this high pressure cleaning process does not affect your plumbing. Without a backflow valve, water can be pushed up into your home through sinks and toilets.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see when cleaning may be happening in your area.



Sewer Back Up Prevention Inspections and Rebates

The Municipality is rolling out a sewer back-up prevention program that will provide home owners with a report identifying risks on their property and access to rebates for sump pump disconnections and sewer backflow valve installations. The initial program will be limited to those connected to municipal sewer in the communities of Brookfield and North River.

Learn more at colchester.ca/public-works

Contact

Website: colchester.ca/public-works
Phone: 902-897-3150 Option 2
Email: engineer@colchester.ca

Project Updates

Photo by Felicia Marie

Active Transportation Strategy

The Municipality of Colchester and Villages of Bible Hill and Tatamagouche have partnered to create a comprehensive active transportation (AT) strategy intended to improve, optimize and prioritize AT options across the region.

In March 2025, the Municipality of Colchester received Provincial Funding from the Connect2 Program to allow for the development of an updated Active Transportation Strategy and in August 2025, staff awarded the contract for the project to Urban Systems.

The project will modernize the Municipality's existing AT Strategy by developing a phased, inclusive, and evidence-based framework for future AT investments and is expected to finish by spring 2026.

What is Active Transportation

Active transportation refers to the movement of people or goods powered by human activity. Active transportation includes walking, cycling and the use of human-powered or hybrid mobility aids such as wheelchairs, scooters, e-bikes, rollerblades, snowshoes, cross-country skis, and more.

Share Your Thoughts

Engagement opportunities, including surveys and public meetings, will be available online and in person across Colchester this fall.

Visit colchester.ca/AT and sign up to receive email updates about the project and public engagement details.



Harnessing the Power of the Sun to Reduce Emissions and Costs

Drivers on highway 236 and visitors to the Cobequid Trail in Lower Truro have likely spotted the new solar farm next to the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility. The 513-kilowatt (kW-DC) solar farm, shown below during construction, has been operational since May and is projected to save the facility \$82,000 in energy costs annually.



This summer, the Municipality also installed ground-mounted solar at the West Colchester United Arena and North Shore Recreation Centre, in addition to the solar added to the roof of the Tatamagouche Library in late 2023.

The four solar projects received \$1.46 million in funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The projects are helping the Municipality to meet its targets in the Carbon-Free Colchester Community Energy & Emissions Plan, including the goal of reaching net-zero emission municipal operations by 2035. For other Carbon-Free Colchester updates, visit colchester.ca/carbon-free.

The Municipality's next step is to explore the feasibility of a Community Solar Garden in Colchester, to which equity-deserving residents will be able to subscribe to reduce their homes' electricity bills. The study is scheduled to wrap up in November 2025 and could lead to implementation in the next couple years.

EDIA Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility

EDIA Coordinator

The Municipality of Colchester is excited to introduce our new EDIA Coordinator, Sarah Pearson (She/Her)!

With over 20 years of experience in the non-profit and public sectors, Sarah has worked directly with children, youth, families, and community partners to co-create learning and support programs rooted in equity, trauma-informed care, and cultural safety. Her academic background includes a Bachelor's degree in Women and Gender Studies with a minor in Sociology, and a Master of Education in Adult Learning and Global Change, where she focused on work and learning integration through Universal Design for Learning, accessibility and feminist lenses.

Sarah will be leading equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives for the Municipality, both internally for staff and externally for the public. The EDIA Coordinator is a community resource and go to contact for residents who wish to express EDIA concerns, and is responsible for identifying and developing plans to minimize barriers that exist in municipal services.

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)? Sarah is here to help and can discuss ways that we may be able to accommodate or assist.

Sarah Pearson

EDIA Coordinator

spearson@colchester.ca

902-897-7990

1 Church Street, Truro



Connect With Us Online



Website: Colchester.ca



Facebook: [@ColchesterNS](https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterNS)



Instagram: [@ColchesterCounty](https://www.instagram.com/ColchesterCounty)



Linkedin: [@Municipality-of-Colchester](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Municipality-of-Colchester)

Work With Us



colchester.applytojobs.ca

Contact

Phone: 902-897-3150

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
For evening and/ or weekend emergencies, call 902-897-3175

COUNCIL

Looking to contact your councillor?
Stay up to date on meetings?
Visit colchester.ca/municipal-council
or scan the QR code below!

