



Colchester Newsletter

Hello Colchester!

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

Photo by Edward Sampson

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Hello from Mayor Blair!

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CHECK THIS OUT!

Thanks to Edward Sampson for submitting these front page photos! 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

The Unhoused: One of the problems facing us today is providing housing for those in need. It's a national crisis without the resources to devote to the complexities. Mental health issues are not a crime, but those not able to, or unwilling to access help, can and do cause problems in our communities. Local businesses, their employees, homeowners and citizens being impacted need to be protected and supported. Police officers are being called out daily to address many problems. Truro has shelters, but the problem is much bigger than providing a hot meal and bed. With winter upon us, staying alive is key for those unhoused and living rough.

This needs to be addressed by the three orders of government. The Federal Government may have some funding programs for accommodation/housing. The Provincial Government has housing and health responsibilities, but it comes down to Municipal Government to deal with day-to-day issues, as we, along with law enforcement, are on the front lines.

We need better health and mental health care, addiction treatment, professional therapists and counsellors, tighter rules and parameters for operating shelters, time and resources to devote to this complex situation. What we really need is to work together, collaboratively, with budgeted funds.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM): The NSFM Annual Conference was held in Halifax early November. Keynote speaker Taraq Hadhad, Peace by Chocolate, Antigonish, was exceptional. Losing his home due to war, becoming a refugee, emigrating to Canada, Taraq and his family started a business in chocolate making which has become an international success.

The 3-day meeting agenda included a provincial Ministers' panel and the Annual General Meeting. One of the best parts of attending these conferences is networking with your peers in local government as those are the discussions where you learn what is actually happening on the ground.

Congratulations: A very special thank you Colchester's Recreation department for coordinating the distribution of

963 tickets to the U17 World Championship Hockey event to local youth and their families. Thank you to Council for allocating the funds to carry out this initiative.

Violence Against Women Elected Officials: Verbal rudeness, sarcastic remarks, condescending acts, disrespect, physical intimidation, bullying, spreading malicious rumours, disingenuous allegations, humiliation, repeated harassing comments, physical assault and online abuse. Municipal officials, especially female mayors, in Nova Scotia are facing significant and increasing levels of threats, harassment and bullying, a situation reported through provincial officials, recognized by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, as reaching a breaking point. It includes "online vitriol, physical threats, death threats, and is a major deterrent to women entering or staying in politics."

This is more than incivility, which I have experienced at a boardroom table. It is targeted harassment with some individuals involving law enforcement to help them due to the severity of the issue. Mayor Pam Mood, Yarmouth, was physically threatened; former Mayor Laurie Boucher, Antigonish; Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Port Hawkesbury; former Mayor Amanda MacDougall, CBRM; former provincial minister Joanne Bernard; former environment minister Catherine McKenna; and I, too, am on that list, as each of us, and many others, have or are experiencing some of these behaviours, often worsened by social media.

What does this do to our democratic representation? It undermines, as it is becoming "a major factor deterring women from seeking re-election or running for office." Added to that, it has the ability to hinder a Mayor from practicing her due diligence and fiduciary duty as an elected official who asks the tough questions people may not want to hear. We are strong women and should not be underestimated, but we know these acts of aggression and threats constitute a very serious situation for us as your elected officials speaking on your behalf.

In closing: I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas, and a healthy, happy New Year 2026.

kindest regards to all,
Christine Blair

Recreation



Equipment Loan Program

Individuals and groups can borrow a variety of games as well as recreation and sports equipment.

A \$25 deposit is required.

To reserve, call 902-897-3185 or email recreation@colchester.ca.

For more information, visit colchester.ca/equipment-loan.

Snowshoe Loan Program



Individuals and groups can borrow child and adult sized snowshoes.

A \$25 deposit is required.

To reserve, call 902-897-3185 or email recreation@colchester.ca.

For more information, visit colchester.ca/equipment-loan.

Art Acquisition Program

From November 3rd to 28th, Colchester County proudly showcased 48 art pieces at the NSCC McCarthy Hall. On November 12th, we hosted our 37th Annual Art Show, where a County representative announced this year's winning artist and the selected piece for our Art Acquisition Program.

Congratulations to the 2025 Art Acquisition Winner, Donna Vigliucci, for their artwork titled "The Watcher".

We look forward to continuing the tradition with our 2026 Art Acquisition Program and Art Show!

Pictured to the right is Mayor Christine Blair with the winner of this year's Art Acquisition, Donna Vigliucci.



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

Thursday, December 25th	Christmas Day
Friday, December 26th	Boxing Day
Thursday, January 1st	New Year's Day

IMPORTANT UPDATES

- If your collection is scheduled for Thursday, December 25, this collection will take place on Monday, December 22.
- If your collection is scheduled for Friday, December 26, this collection will take place on Monday, December 29.
- If your collection is scheduled for Thursday, January 1, this collection will take place on Monday, January 5.
- 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.

Holiday Tree Collection

Holiday Tree Collection begins on January 13th and ends on January 23, 2026. To ensure your tree is collected, have trees out **ON** or **BEFORE** January 13, 2026.



All trees must be visible (unburied), free of lights, ornaments and stands. Trees must be debagged and **NOT** frozen to the ground to ensure collection.

EPRA Electronics Recycling Drop-off Program

The Colchester Solid Waste Facility in Kemptown is now accepting electronics!

Items need to be dropped off loose, they must **NOT** be mixed in garbage bags.

Electronics can be dropped off from:
 Monday to Friday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Saturdays – 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Please note that Electronics and small household appliances are **NOT** accepted curbside for collection.

Accepted Products:

- Display Devices
- Desktop and Portable Computers
- Desktop and Portable Scanners
- Desktop Printers/Multi-Function Devices
- External Storage Drives, Modems and Computer Accessories
- Personal Care and Garment Care Appliances
- Air-Treatment Appliances and Floor/Carpet Care Appliances (excludes Air Conditioners)
- Vehicle Audio, Home Audio and Portable Audio
- Home Theater-in-a-Box (HTB) System
- Devices for Measuring Time and Weight Scales
- Portable and Vehicle GPS
- Phones and Smart Phone Devices
- Video Game Devices, Electronic Readers
- Small Household Appliances and Microwave Ovens (excludes built-in or over-the-range Microwaves)

Contact

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



Community Development

Building and Development Permit Updates

FEE UPDATES

The Municipality has revised its permit fee structure. As part of these changes, all building permits will now include a \$25 development permit fee. Please refer to the table for a detailed breakdown of the updated fees.

What is a Building Permit?

Official approval of project safety and compliance with provincial building codes.

What is a Development Permit?

Official approval of project compliance with local land use by-laws, such as those governing the type, size, and location of a structure on a property.

APPLY ONLINE

Did you know you can now apply and pay for municipal permits online?

Scan the QR code below to learn more!



Contact

Website:

colchester.ca/community-development

Phone:

902-897-3170

Email:

comdev@colchester.ca

Building and Development Permits		
Project	Fee	Requirements
Projects Requiring Development Permit (DP) Only		
Ground Mounted Solar Panels Ground Mounted requires BP	\$25	Plot Plan
Pool	\$25	Plot Plan - Location/ Fencing
Fence Over 6.6 ft in Height	\$25	Plot Plan
Signs	\$25	Sign Details Plot Plan
Home Occupation	\$25	Floor Plan/Details
Shed Under 215 ft ² + No Power	\$25	Plot Plan
Communication Tower	\$25	Plot Plan
Projects Requiring Building Permit (BP) + Development Permit (DP) <i>All new buildings on vacant land require a civic sign - \$25</i>		
Commercial Industrial + Institutional	\$0.12 per sq ft. + \$25 DP	Plot Plan/Site Plan Detailed Building Plans Sewer/Septic Permit Driveway Permit
Residential New House/Mini Home	\$0.10 per sq ft + \$25 DP	Plot Plan Detailed Building Plans Sewer/Septic Permit Driveway Permit
Relocating House/Mini Home	\$50 (\$25 + \$25 DP)	
Addition Residential	\$0.10 per sq ft + \$25 DP	Plot Plan Detailed Building Plans Sewer/Septic Permit Driveway Permit
Commercial	\$0.12 per sq ft + \$25 DP	
Garage/Shed 215-500 ft ²	\$50 (\$25 + \$25 DP)	Accessory Sheet Plot Plan
Over 500 ft ²	\$75 (\$50 + \$25 DP)	
Renovations Structural renovations Change of use Power hookup to existing shed	\$1.50 per \$1000 of Renovation Costs (Minimum \$25) + \$25 DP	Renovation Plans
Demolition Fee	\$50 (\$25 + \$25 DP)	Details
Roof Mounted Solar Panels	\$50 (\$25 + \$25 DP)	Design Drawings



Colchester

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

December 2025

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

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

25 **Municipal Office Closure**
 THURS Christmas Day

26 **Municipal Office Closure**
 FRI Boxing Day

January 2026

01 **Municipal Office Closure**
 THURS New Year's Day

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

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

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

30 **Community Trail Funding Program Deadline**
 FRI Visit colchester.ca/grants-and-funding for more information.

31 **Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Deadline**
 SAT Visit colchester.ca/grants-and-funding for more information.

February 2026

03

TUES

Council Committee Meeting

Presentation Meeting, on as needed basis

12

THURS

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

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

16

MON

Office Closure

Family Day

26

THURS

Council Meeting

6 PM

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

27

FRI

Community Park Funding Program Deadline

Visit colchester.ca/grants-and-funding for more information.

March 2026

03

TUES

Council Committee Meeting

Presentation Meeting, on as needed basis

12

THURS

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

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

26

THURS

Council Meeting

6 PM

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

Not-for-Profit Community Events Grant

Applications are accepted year round. Please visit colchester.ca/grants-and-funding for more information.



Tax Office

Photo by Felicia Marie

Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2025/2026 property tax bills were due on August 29, 2025. Outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.00% per month.

What Happens When Property Taxes Are Not Paid?

Unpaid taxes are a first lien on the property and will be charged interest of 1.00% per month. Legislatively, the Municipality of Colchester is required to eventually take properties with an outstanding balance to tax sale.

To avoid your property going to tax sale, you can enter and honour a payment arrangement to repay the outstanding taxes. If you would like to set up a payment arrangement or discuss payment options, you can contact our property tax office at 902-897-3162 or email cveling@colchester.ca.

Change of Address

If you have not received your 2025 tax bill, please update your mailing address now. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that the correct mailing address is on your property tax account.

Where there is more than one owner or more than one address for a property, the Municipality will only issue one bill to one address. To update your mailing address please contact the tax office at 902-897-3162, email your updated address to taxoffice@colchester.ca or fill out an address change form on our website colchester.ca/address-change-form.

It is also important to ensure that your mailing address is up to date with Property Valuation Services to ensure that you receive your Notice of Assessment.

Notice of Assessment

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) assesses every property in Nova Scotia and mails the Property Assessment Notices to property owners every January.

When you get your Property Assessment Notice:

- Read every section
- Note the deadline to appeal your assessment. PVSC must receive your appeal within 31 days of the date on your Notice. The appeal form is on the back of your Notice.
- Contact PVSC if you have any questions about, or disagree with, your Property Assessment Notice. You can call 1-800-380-7775 or email inquiry@pvsc.ca.

Remember that the Notice of Assessment is not your tax bill, we will mail our tax bills separately in June 2026.

To learn more about property assessments in Nova Scotia please visit pvsc.ca.

Contact

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

Public Works

Who Plows My Road and Sidewalk?



The Municipality, Province, and Villages share the responsibility for snow removal on roads and sidewalks. Check out our online interactive road map on the Municipality's website at colchester.ca/roads-and-driveways#plowed.

Municipality of Colchester - Public Works

Responsible for snow removal on 34 kms of roads throughout the County, namely within subdivisions in Valley, Bible Hill, and Debert. Our crews also clear snow from 33 kms of sidewalks throughout Brookfield, Debert, Hilden, North River, Onslow, Salmon River, Truro Heights, and Valley.

If you have a snowplowing concern in one of these areas, please contact our Public Works Office at 902-897-3175, Option 2.



Villages of Bible Hill and Tatamagouche

Responsible for clearing snow from all sidewalks in Bible Hill. If you have a concern with snow removal on a Bible Hill sidewalk, you can contact their office at 902-893-8083.

The Village of Tatamagouche is responsible for snow removal on all sidewalks in Tatamagouche. Please contact their office at 902-657-3696 with any concerns.

Nova Scotia Public Works - Provincial

Responsible for clearing snow from the remaining roads throughout the County. Please reach out to their Operations Centre at 1-844-696-7737 with any concerns.

Parking Restrictions

With winter upon us, we remind drivers to be respectful of our snow clearing efforts. We ask that you do not park on County owned roads or parking lots before, during, and after winter storms to allow staff to safely remove snow. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience this winter season.

Sewer and Water Lateral Installations

With colder temperatures upon us, sewer and water lateral installations become complicated and cause unsafe conditions for staff and contractors. Therefore, the Municipality does not install new sewer or water laterals from the main lines to the property lines during the Winter months, with the exception of emergencies. New lateral installations will begin again during the Spring after road restrictions have been lifted.

Contact

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

Odds & Ends

Photo by Dianna Fortnum

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.

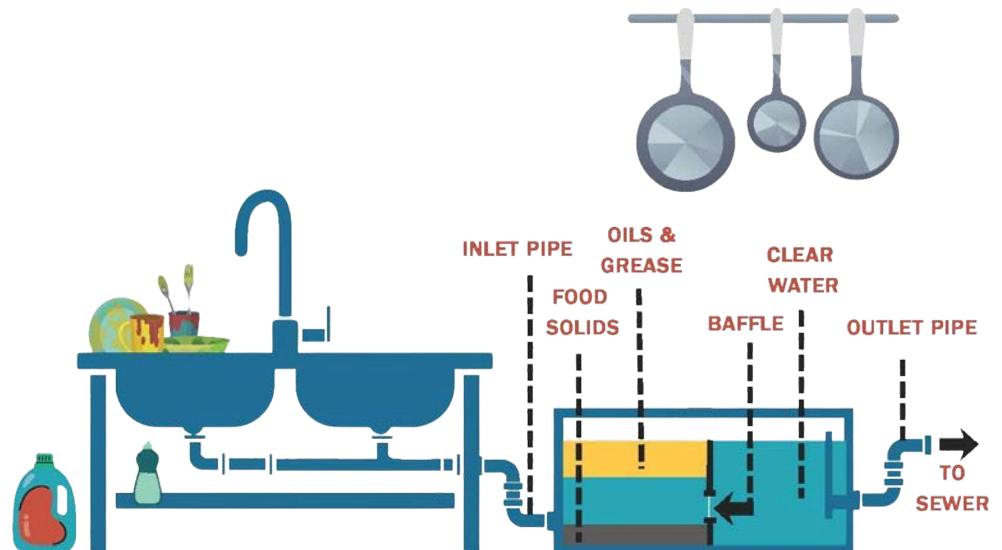
Share Your Thoughts

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



Grease Traps and How They Work

Do you own a commercial kitchen? If yes, you require a grease trap to be installed as part of your permit to allow connection to the Municipality's sewer system. Grease traps are CSA-rated plumbing devices that catch fats, oils and grease and keep them out of your plumbing and our sewer system. It is important to maintain and clean your grease trap every 3 months, or when grease takes up more than 25% of the trap volume. Failure to properly maintain your grease trap can potentially lead to costly business interruptions. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in maintaining our sewer systems.



Colchester Introduces New Deer Feeding By-law

Colchester Council has approved a new Deer Feeding By-law to help reduce the feeding of deer in the County's towns and villages. The By-law was created because the number of neighbourhood deer is growing, and this can cause problems for both people and wildlife.

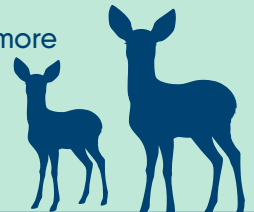
Before making a formal complaint, residents are encouraged to start a discussion with the person feeding the deer, let them know about the By-law and why it matters. Learning and understanding are the most important steps.

If the Municipality does get a complaint, the first response will be a letter to the person involved in feeding deer. The letter will explain the By-law, why it exists, and that continuing to feed the deer could result in a fine. Feeding deer can cause them to become dependent on people, creates traffic dangers, and can even spread disease. By sharing this information, the Municipality hopes most problems can be solved without fines.

If warnings and education do not work, and there is clear evidence of feeding deer, repeat offenders may be fined. The goal, however, is that it will not come to that.

This By-law is not a perfect fix, but it is one of the tools the Municipality is using to help control the deer population and keep communities safe and healthy – for both people and animals.

A copy of this By-law can be found on our website at Colchester.ca/administration/by-laws. For more information, contact Devin Trefry at 902-897-3182 or dtrefry@colchester.ca



Supporting Community Access to the U17 World Hockey Challenge

The Municipality of Colchester was proud to support the U17 World Hockey Challenge held at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre by committing up to \$20,000 toward the purchase of tickets for children and families who may not have otherwise been able to attend.

Through the help of local schools, the Schools Plus program, community organizations, and Colchester Recreation staff, hundreds of tickets were distributed, allowing more residents to experience this exciting international event.

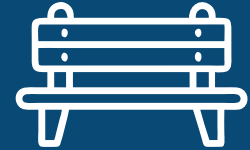
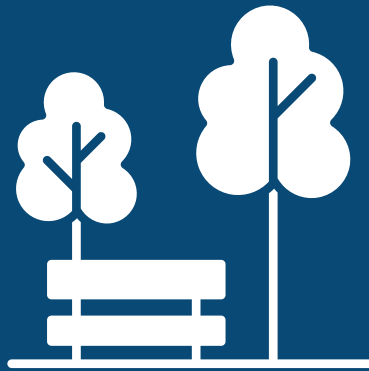
The Municipality extends sincere thanks to everyone involved for their efforts in making this initiative a success. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying world-class hockey right here in our community—thank you for helping make it such a memorable week.

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.

A copy of this By-law can be found on our website at colchester.ca/administration/by-laws.



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!

