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## Election Special

The section contains interviews with candidates for two ridings, Central Nova and Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook. In these ridings, we contacted candidates from the Liberal Party, the Progressive Conservative Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party, the People's Party of Canada and the Communist Party. Two candidates in Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook never responded, so they are not included here.

You can find the platforms of the respective parties on the party websites, as well as boilerplate campaign biographies. In these interviews, we focused primarily on what the candidates had to say in the course of the interviews, to capture some sense of why they had decided to run, and risk winning a job that can be almost all-consuming.

In reviewing all nine interviews, what we find moving, and impressive, is the depth and breadth of this group. Where else would you find someone so in love with white-tail deer that he's built a library of 500 books on the subject? Or a professor of Mexican revolutionary history by day, and a drag queen performer at night? It's no surprise that all of them report that health care is a major issue. But there's no question, even before the climate marches at the end of September, that climate change and concerns about protecting biodiversity have moved up. And regardless of party lines, these candidates are committed to making the lives of all Canadians better, no matter how they might differ on policy particulars.

Vote!

## Sean Fraser, MP Central Nova Liberal, Central Nova

Even a few minutes with MP Sean Fraser makes it clear how much he loves his job. "You don't need to be a Prime Minister to make a tangible difference in the lives of the people you serve," Fraser told the *Cooperator*. "As an MP, you have a real opportunity to have an impact: getting people access to the programs that can help them, helping community organizations build new facilities, and sometimes even shifting national policy in new directions."



And for someone whose first political office was vice president of the environment club at his elementary school at the age of 7, Fraser could not be happier serving as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment. "I can't tell you how much it's meant to me. Protecting nature and fighting climate change are things I've cared about and worked on my entire life."

...continued on page 5

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## Al Muir

*Peoples Party of Canada, Central Nova*

Al Muir has got a lot of balls in the air. "People ask me how I do all the things I do," Muir told the *Cooperator*. "I tend to be a workaholic; sometimes that's a good thing, sometimes it's a bad thing."

As a businessman, Muir's been running an Italian restaurant since 1981, with somewhere between 17 and 20 employees depending on the time of year. "I've done pretty much everything in the business. When I come in, I just do what needs to be done, get in there wherever I'm needed."

A lifelong hunter, he's been one of the most outspoken opponents of a variety of federal legislation dealing with firearms, making many trips over the years to Ottawa to lobby members of Parliament.

He's also been a serious wildlife photographer, moving from long-lens animal photography to becoming an expert in the use of trail cameras. "I've been a naturalist for 40 odd years. When I've got any time off, I spend most of days in the woods."

As the head of a hunter's organization and a wildlife photographer, Muir has been fascinated by white-tail deer. "I have upwards of 500 volumes on white-tailed deer in my library. I'm interested in everything about them; physiology, biology, habits. I guess I could be considered an expert on white-tailed deer."

And over the years, he had his own newspaper column, and wrote dozens of articles about his varied interests.



"People who know me know my political leanings are libertarian," Muir said. "I had a membership in the Conservative Party, and I voted for Max Bernier in the leadership race. I tried to encourage people to move Max up. I like the PPC's willingness to allow open votes for members. You need to be able to represent your constituents, and not have to toe the line all the time for the party."

"I'm the president of the Big Game Society of Nova Scotia," Muir said. "I try to bridge the gap between hunters and non-hunters, to get each group to show mutual respect, instead of being at each other's throats." He's critical of polarization about other

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## Betsy MacDonald

### NDP, Central Nova

Betsy MacDonald's interest in politics is deeply rooted in her family's history. Her father served as a councillor in Antigonish. In an interview with the *Cooperator*, MacDonald said, "I was very influenced by the Antigonish Movement and its social justice values. I like cooperative values, ideas of working together to collectively improve our lives. My grandfather was one of the first managers of a local credit union."

As to why she decided to run, MacDonald has "kind of one line about why I'm running. My seven-year-old daughter's future, and the future of the planet. Students are walking out and striking in protest of climate inaction. Hers is the generation that will have to deal with the consequences if we don't act with the urgency the situation requires. And I think about the economy in our part of the world, about what will be there for her when she comes of age."

MacDonald earned a BA in development studies and anthropology, and then a Masters in Social Justice and Equity from Brock University. She wrote her

major paper on the failed neoliberal Atlantica proposal to establish a free-trade zone that included the Maritimes, connecting the proposal to the larger issue of economic globalization.

"I did all kinds of things after school. I worked as a freelance researcher and writer and project coordinator, dealing with issues including gender based violence, sustainable livelihoods, social enterprise, community gardening, and youth leadership. I spent two years with the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, working on a program to prevent school-based violence."

"I've never run for office before. When I was a university student, my Dad ran for mayor, and I knocked on doors and helped with his website. For the last three and a half years, I've been doing communications and outreach for the NDP's Nova Scotia caucus."

Going door-to-door, MacDonald says that the number one issue is health care. "In our province, health care is in crisis. There's been an erosion of health care services under Liberal and Conservative governments. Many people are struggling, with no family

doctors, inadequate mental health services, and expensive drugs. We need universal pharmacare, and coverage for hearing, dental, and vision services. And we should add mental health to the Canada Health Act." She said her work at a women's health care center had showed her, "how so many people were struggling with mental health, and how mental health is connected to things like poverty, systemic racism, and gender-based violence."

After health care, MacDonald says that environmental issues are at the top of many peoples' concerns. "In Pictou, it's Northern Pulp; in Sherbrook, it's gold mining; in Westville, coal mining; on the Eastern Shore, the Marine Protected Area proposal."

MacDonald supports the NDP's call for programs designed to make life more affordable, including a universal, affordable child care system, more affordable housing, and taking on the big telecommunications companies to cut internet and phone bills.



MacDonald is a serious musician. "Music is therapy for me. Singing connects the mind, the breath, and the body. I first started harmonizing with people when I was only four years old. My Dad plays the guitar and sings, and my Mom used to play the clarinet. And they both sang in the church choir."

MacDonald is one of the few, maybe the only, candidate in Nova Scotia to author her own campaign song. She laughs at the prosaic title, "NDP Campaign Song," sung in the key of A. Two lines:

*Helping mother earth and ending corporate greed / Yeah we can do it by voting NDP.*

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*...Fraser continued from page 2*

Fraser says that he's "neck deep" in studies and reports from Environment Canada. "One of the things I don't think most people in Canada appreciate is the crisis facing nature. We're degrading the natural environment at a rate the world has never seen. Since the 1970s, 60% of our wildlife has disappeared."

Fraser rarely gets agitated, but the Progressive Conservatives' opposition to all measures to deal with climate change upsets him. "I can't tell you how frustrating it is when we have a man in Andrew Scheer, who treats the environment as an inconvenience. This is the kind of thing that should have people marching in the streets. The idea that we would risk turning back the clock on environmental protection in 2019 is unfathomable to me."

What is fathomable to Fraser is looking at the challenge of building a sustainable economy as a once-in-a-lifetime economic opportunity.

"Making this transition will create millions of new jobs. We need to make sure that our workers get the skills and retraining they need to work in the new industries we'll be creating, from retrofitting housing to building millions of electric vehicles. This is where the world is going. We have to decide whether we want to be on front edge and capitalize on these opportunities, or if we're going to let the world pass us by and have workers elsewhere providing green tech to us."

*...Muir continued from page 3*

issues, including the PPC's position on immigration being labeled as racist. "Our party thinks that the right level of immigration, for integrating people, finding housing and jobs, is 150,000 a year. The Liberals say the number should be higher, 350,000 a year. Are the Liberals racists because they don't support 500,000 a year?"

Muir has had direct experience with the inadequacies of the province's mental health system. "One of my sons is mentally ill, and lives with us. The mental health system is heartbreaking. Just getting a diagnosis can take years. There's a blurred distinction about the responsibilities of the provincial and federal governments—no wonder the public gets confused. And no way the federal Liberals are going to be critical of the provincial Liberals."

At a much deeper level than the economic, Fraser also believes that helping workers through this green transition is part of the struggle, from the United States to Brazil, to protect democracies from the growing onslaught of right-wing populist movements and their strongmen leaders.

"When people quite rightly see the economy serving the interests of an elite with an extraordinary amount of money, they're likely to respond to populist messages to pull out of the global order, to turn our backs on trade. When we see this pivot towards inward-facing politics, that we don't need our neighbours to get along, we're missing out on advancing our collective self-interest."

Among other measures, Fraser says that we need to make changes in the country's tax system to make sure that when the economy is growing, worker's salaries grow too, and not just the wealthier getting wealthier. "It doesn't feel like progress if all that's going on is millionaires becoming billionaires."

Fraser noted that the job of being an MP is tough on families. "My wife and my daughter don't have their names on the ballot, but they're the ones who have to live with the consequences. My wife is a godsend; but my three-and-a-half year old doesn't get to see her dad as much as she deserves. You have to carve out the time to be a husband and a father. This job will take everything from you."

Muir thinks that the solution to the country's health care problems is to adopt some kind of mixed private-public blend. "Canadians were one of first to come up with universal health care and we should be proud of that. But we're not willing to look at what rest of world has done afterwards, to move beyond our first step. We're the only OECD country, except for the U.S., that doesn't have a mixed private-public system. And most of these systems now perform better than the Canadian one."

Health care is one of what Muir calls the "core elements" that government should be involved in. He also sees a role for government in helping people who are struggling with pension issues. "The government can't be all things to all people, but pensions is one of those core elements that government should do well. People who've worked hard their whole lives should be able to live decently in retirement."

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**Chris Johnson Joins Hurricanes**

North Preston's Chris Johnson has signed with the Halifax Hurricanes for the 2019-20 NBL Canada season.

Johnson is a 6'5" guard/forward who played high school basketball at Auburn Drive in Cole Harbour. He played in the NCAA in the United States at St. Bonaventure University. Playing last year for the Cape Breton Highlanders, he made the NBL Canada All-Canadian Second Team, averaging 14 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists per game.

In a press release from the Hurricanes, Coach Mike Leslie said, "We are very pleased to be able to have Chris, a veteran player and an outstanding

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## George Canyon

### Progressive Conservative, Central Nova

When the Progressive Conservatives surprised everyone by asking George Canyon to replace Roger MacKay as their nominee in Central Nova, the first burst of media focus was on Canyon's visibility as one of the country's best-known country music stars. After all, since the early 2000s, he'd won all the major country music industry awards.

But in an interview with the *Cooperator*, Canyon said he had a different perspective that carries over into his "entrepreneurial" approach to politics. "Only 5% of the music business is getting on stage and singing a song. The other 95% is running a business. There's human relations, diplomacy, working with people from all walks of life doing concerts and shows. We had upwards of 31 people in our circle who were at least partly dependent on me: bus drivers, band members, agents; you learn how to work with people."

Canyon picked up his first guitar at 4, but says "I never imagined in my wildest imagination music would be my career. No one around me did. I planned on being in the Canadian Air Force."

Canyon's plans to join the Air Force came undone when he was diagnosed in high school with Type 1 diabetes, ruling out a flying career. So when he arrived at St. Francis Xavier, he enrolled in an accelerated program to prepare for medical school, until a musical changed his life forever.



"I was doing a musical, the lead role of King Arthur in Camelot, and these guys from a band heard me sing. They asked me to go on the road with them, and I never came back. I had to learn the music business the hard way. I sure wish I had taken some business classes."

Canyon met his wife Jennifer on the road, and ended up settling in a farmhouse in Hopewell. "Jen was working three jobs so I could stay in the music business, playing gigs on the weekends. I'll never forget those days. I got to be Mr. Mom, but we were barely getting by. Jen's been the anchor."

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## Chris Frazer

*Communist Party of Canada, Central Nova*

Chris Frazer's journey to being the Communist Party candidate in Central Nova began long ago in Alberta, where he led the first student strike in Alberta's history at what is now Mount Royal University in Calgary.



Frazer laid out his odyssey in an interview with the *Cooperator*. "I was president of the student body, and had served a term on the college's board of governors. The board had proposed eliminating a bunch of summer courses, which would have kept a bunch of students from completing their programs. I voted against this proposal, the students decided to walk out, and we won."

"The Communist Party people were the only ones who showed any integrity during this struggle. I didn't know anything about the CP. I just knew that somebody was on my side. I started hanging out with them, and I started learning how much they'd

been at the head of so many social struggles."

Frazer got his PhD from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. At Brown, he ended up working two years with the United Auto Workers in an attempt to unionize poorly paid

*...continued on page 8*

*...Canyon continued from page 6*

Canyon, who was born Frederick George Lays Jr., ran into a peculiar obstacle when he decided to go out on his own as a solo act 18 years ago. "My lawyer told me that if I caught on, I could get sued by the Lays potato-chip company. I called my Dad, and he said, 'Don't be a moron, change your name.' So I did, but don't think it hasn't bothered me every day."

Canyon considered running in the last federal election for a seat from Alberta, but stepped back after a cancer scare. But when he was contacted this time, he decided to step up. Canyon has been getting help from the last Conservative to hold the seat, Peter McKay. "Peter is a dear friend, and a great mentor. He hasn't candy-coated

anything; he's allowed me to get to see the inner workings."

On the hot issue of whether to close the Northern Pulp mill, Canyon questions why the provincial government has not disclosed any back-up plans. "What have the Liberals done for the last four years? I hope and pray they have some plans in place. As taxpayers, we count on their leadership. What's Plan B? And if B fails, what's Plan C?"

Although denied his childhood wish to join the Air Force, as an adult, Canyon won a private flying license in 2016 after lobbying Transport Canada to allow people with Type 1 diabetes to get private licenses. Canyon praised Transport Canada for having gone on to allow Type 1 diabetics to become commercial pilots as well.



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...Frazer continued from page 7

graduate students. Frazer is currently associate professor of history at St. Francis Xavier, with two books under his belt dealing with the culture of bandits and political revolutionaries in Mexico. He says he loves teaching, and students rate his classes highly.

On the most prominent environmental issue of the day, Frazer takes the Greens and the Liberals to task for not focusing on the real problem, corporations. “I don’t know how they intend to curb carbon emissions without dealing with the power of corporations. The Liberals’ carbon tax has done nothing. Our carbon footprint has worsened since the Paris agreement.”

“And as for Pictou Landing, the government doesn’t give a damn about the people of Pictou. It’s ordinary working people who end up paying the price each and every time. That’s what’s got to stop. The people of Pictou need to close that plant down, confiscate the company’s other assets, and retrain all the workers with no loss of pay.”

Frazer says he’s been surprised to find how fluid the people he talks to on doorsteps are about their party affiliations. “People know me around Antigonish. They’re talking about their struggles with their pay, with childcare, with the real estate controlled by

speculators and absentee landlords. I think the salaries of members of Parliament should be pegged to the salaries of average Canadians. And no more pensions after serving just two terms. What do they do that’s so special they get to retire early, more comfortably than people who work 40-50 years?”

The pension issue has struck close to home. “My Mom had a good pension, but it’s run out. She’s got Alzheimer’s, and needs an elevated level of care. My brother and sister are trying to sell her house right now. There’s no way people should be treated like that at the end of their lives.”

Frazer was married for almost 30 years, but is now divorced and identifies himself as a queer person. He started performing in drag shows years ago in Calgary, and is working on a book on the history of drag in Halifax. “When I moved to Antigonish, I decided to organize a drag show, ‘Priscilla Queen of the Highlands.’ We’ve been putting this show on every year since 2005. It’s now the largest drag show east of Montreal, and one of the best. I perform fairly regularly in Halifax. I have 2 main characters; Celia Cruse, a standard lip synch choreographer, and Joanie Cash, a queer version of Johnny Cash who plays 12-string guitar and sings protest and labour songs.”

## Supporting New Tech for the Birches

By Pamela Baker

For 2019, the members of the Twin Oaks and Birches Charitable Health Care Foundation decided to take a new approach to fundraising for the two facilities.

For several years, the successful ‘No Supper Supper’ has raised donations in the community for items not covered in the operating budget of the Department of Health. Following the motto, “For the Care and Comfort”, the Foundation always strives to purchase items or services that make life easier and safer for patients and residents.

This year, a request from The Birches team will be the focus of a new campaign called “Fund a Need.” An auto scrubber is definitely needed in the facility. Seen in most hospitals, this floor cleaner not only washes and

disinfects but also dries. Slippery floors, even with bright orange safety cones, are a hazard for the residents.

Addressing this specific concern will allow residents and staff to benefit from the technology and provide members of the community with an opportunity to know exactly how their donations are being allocated. Next year, the Foundation will Fund a Need for a request from Twin Oaks.

The cost is approximately \$20,000. You can make a donation at the front desk of Twin Oaks and The Birches, at the Royal Bank branches in Musquodoboit Harbour and Porters Lake, or by mailing a check made out to: Fund A Need—Twin Oaks/Birches Health Care Charitable Foundation, P.O.Box 186, Musquodoboit Harbour, NS B0J 2L0.

## Barry Randle *Green Party, Central Nova*

The Green Party has been creating waves around the country in this election cycle, but Barry Randle's been onboard for more than 10 years, leaving the NDP in 2008 to work on Elizabeth May's campaign that year in Central Nova.

In an interview with the *Cooperator*, Randle said that he started canvassing with Greenpeace while he was a student at McMaster. In 1991, it was the 20th anniversary of Greenpeace, and the *Rainbow Warrior* was visiting Vancouver. "I hopped a bus to Vancouver, and couldn't think of a single good reason to go back to Hamilton after I saw that—ended up there for the next 17-18 years."



Eventually he and his wife decided they needed a change, and headed for Nova Scotia, where they run the Stone Soup Café in Pictou. The restaurant is "a gathering spot where people to get together and talk about things. And we're directly across the water from the mill, so we talk about it all the time." They focus on local foods, along with some spicy foods from other traditions.

The climate crisis is Randle's number one environmental concern. "We need to move to a zero carbon economy, to get to net zero by 2050, that's what the IPPC says, to hold climate change under 1.5 degree. There'll still be lots of big changes, but we have to hold it to 1.5 because if we get to 2.0 or 2.5, the whole system's going to come apart."

Going door-to-door, Randle says, "The level of awareness of the climate crisis is higher than it's ever been before. People can see the weather changing. Winters aren't what they used to be. July was the hottest month ever. It's

time to deal with it; we can't put it off any longer. I'm getting support from places you never would have expected."

"There are lots of changes that need to happen, but there are lots of opportunities too. We need to restructure the power grids, get off fossil fuels, we need to plant trees. Take the forestry workers. Instead of paying them to cut trees down, we need to pay them to put trees back up. They know the forest better than anyone else, and we should keep them employed. The best thing in the world to help mitigate the climate crisis is planting trees, trillions of them."

"Our platform has transition plans for workers who are moving out of one industry to the next. We need to support workers while we transition them with the skills they have into new jobs that instead of taking the environment apart are putting it back together. The same thing applies to the pulp mill workers."

As for agriculture, Randle says, "Food security has always been part of the Green Party platform. "We want to

...continued on page 10

THE  
DISC  
CLINIC

### NOTICE – MUSQUODOBOIT HARBOUR

Over the past two months there have been some significant changes in clinicians. Due to personal decisions and changes, we are no longer able to offer Physiotherapy and Massage Therapy in the Harbour. This has been an unforeseen change in staff. At this time, it no longer makes sense to stay at our location in Musquodoboit Harbour.

Don't worry, we are working hard to fill those clinical voids. I will continue to treat my patients on Mondays and Wednesday's. However, the location will be changing. As of September 4, we will be offering Chiropractic services out of an office in my home, in Lake Echo.

We still have a full multidisciplinary team in Dartmouth including Physiotherapy and Massage Therapy. Our current clinicians will be working hard to accommodate clients and patients still seeking a high quality of care. If you do not wish to or are unable to drive to Dartmouth, we can recommend local practitioners.

We understand that this seems sudden and a fairly large change. Sometimes that's the way life goes and our number one focus is to ease the transition of our patients.

We are Committed to providing the high quality of patient care you have come to expect from TDC. If you have an appointment with us in September, you will be contacted to make new arrangements.

We are so grateful for the incredible community support we have received over the last eight years and look forward to providing you with the services you need. Thank you to our loyal patients that have supported us, we look forward to continuing to help you reach your health goals!

Dr. Marc Baker

L

## Darrell Samson

Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

**Connect with me!**

902-220-8175  
darrell@darrellsamson.ca

Authorized by the Official Agent for Darrell Samson.

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## Darrell Samson, MP Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook *Liberal, Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook*

Darrell Samson didn't hesitate for a second when I asked him what he thought the Liberal's most important accomplishment had been during his first term in office.

"I'm so proud of the government strategy that has allowed us as a country to lift 900,000 Canadians out of poverty. We've wiped out 20% of poverty in three and a half years. And 300,000 of those people are kids. That is powerful. That's not a personal accomplishment, but it represents what my values are. We want to create conditions so that all Canadians have the opportunity to succeed."

Samson's father, who served as a councillor for 15 years in Cape Breton, taught him to focus on the needs of the community. "When he spoke, he would say, 'My people want, my people need.' This community role was always very important to me. And my Mom was a teacher too."

Samson's first career was in education, rising to become the superintendent of all French schools in the province, a position that he now sees as being similar to his job as a Member of Parliament. "If you take the teacher/



administrator role, you're working with people, with community leaders, with organizations, with people who're working hard for their causes—almost exactly what you're doing as an MP."

Samson said one of the things that had surprised him once he got to Ottawa was the change in his understanding of lobbying. "I thought 'lobbyist' was kind of a dirty word, that big corporations hired firms to lobby government. But I found that 85% of all the organizations that lobby are people who are engaged in helping their communities, all kinds of great organizations. How can we articulate on their behalf if we don't hear from them?"

*...continued on next page*

*...Randle continued from page 9*

make small-scale family farming a realistic profitable enterprise again, and take farming out of the hands of large corporations and spread it back out around the regions. We need local production, local slaughterhouses, local canneries, farmers markets. We need to reduce the regulations that are in place so farmers can sell to local stores."

On healthcare, Randle says it's "a

massive concern for people around here. The Green Party platform includes pharmacare, and a dental plan for all Canadians. We want to expand availability of physicians. We need to have more physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and start working with some alternative health care systems like acupuncture. We've seen that just throwing more money is not the solution. We've been doing that, and things have not been getting better. We need to refocus the resources that are there."

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*...Samson continued from page 10*

Samson said that one of the aspects of serving that he found especially meaningful was the opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister every week when Parliament was in session. "I get to sit down for two hours every Wednesday with the Prime Minister of the country. We're encouraged to share the concerns that he, or the Cabinet, needs to be aware of. If you want to speak, you send in your topic to the chair. I've never been denied access."

Next to reducing poverty, Samson cited job creation as one of the party's most significant accomplishments. "Unemployment has gone down from 7.4% to 5.3%, the lowest level in the last 40 years. Our government has created the positive environment that has allowed our businesses to innovate and lead and create 1.1 million new jobs in the last three and a half years." Samson credited trade deals

for opening up markets for Canadian products to a billion people in the European Union and Asian markets.

Much closer to home, Samson cited his fight for veterans' health care as an especially important change. "Nova Scotia has the most veterans per capita in Canada, and this riding has the most veterans in Nova Scotia per capita. We had a veterans' hospital, but it was only open to veterans from WWI, WWII, and the Korean War.

"I led the fight to create a new category for later veterans to create a new category at Camp Hill. Veterans Affairs wasn't interested. We went to the Minister, but didn't win. We had to go to the Prime Minister, and he approved. So in 2016, we added 15 beds. By 2018, those beds were full, and we ended up having to go back to the PM again, and got 25 more beds added. Now we're working on making some of those units so spouses can stay too."

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Authorized by the Official Agent for Betsy MacDonald

*...Johnson continued from page 5*

local talent, with us for the upcoming season. He had a very successful overseas career for a number of years and followed that up with two very productive seasons in our league, Chris will provide key offensive scoring as well as leadership to his younger Hurricane teammates. He will represent the Hurricanes well in our community relations as a role model to youth who wish to pursue their dreams and goals on and off the basketball court."

**EASTERN SHORE MUSQUODOBOIT COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD**

The *Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board* is dedicated to working with residents and partners to improve the health of the community through health promotion, advocacy, engagement and learning together.

**Do you belong to a local not-for-profit group and have a project idea that will improve the health of your community?**

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Wellness Funds are intended to support new and innovative projects that advance community health board priorities and use a population health-based approach in addressing the social determinants of health. Funds support community-defined priorities, as identified in the Central Zone Community Health Plan, provide start-up or bridge-funding, benefits local community and encourages relationship building and collaboration.

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[denise.vanwychen@nshealth.ca](mailto:denise.vanwychen@nshealth.ca)

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Check out the CHB Wellness Fund Grants to see if they're right for you and learn more by visiting  
[www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/wellness-funds](http://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/wellness-funds)

**Deadline for Wellness Fund Applications is October 15th, 2019 at midnight**



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## Anthony Edmonds

*Green Party, Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook*

Green Party candidate Anthony Edmonds is on a political odyssey that has already changed politics in provinces from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island, a change that he's hoping his candidacy will accelerate in Nova Scotia. After starting



out in high school as a young supporter of the NDP, and volunteering with NDP stalwarts like Peter Stouffer and the late Sid Prest, he's now a deeply committed supporter of the Green Party.

"I don't consider myself a very partisan person," Edmonds told the *Cooperator*. "Even when I was strongly supporting the NDP, I had little loyalty to the brand, but to the values. I learned a lot from Peter Stouffer. He could put people before party."

Edmonds worked on Sid Prest's 2009 campaign, and was especially excited about the party's commitment to electoral reform. "The NDP won, but then there was no progress on electoral reform. I'd bring this up to Sid, and he made quite plain that his voice wasn't being heard in caucus, that decisions were not even being made in

cabinet, that only the Premier's office mattered. That wasn't what I had signed up for. Dexter was out of step with NDP values, and with democratic values. I became quite disillusioned, and backed off from politics."

Edmonds finished his engineering degree at Dalhousie, and began settling into his career, thinking about marriage and children. "By this time, other issues had been growing on my radar. I wasn't thinking about climate change in 2006, but by 2015, I thought it was time to get serious about doing something. I wanted to have kids, and I had to ask myself whether in good conscience I could bring children into this world without thinking they could have a good life."

Edmonds respected the Green Party's visioning document, with its emphasis on democracy, representation,

electoral reform, and climate change. When he started to get involved with the Green Party, the party "was having a political brush with death. I went to all the meetings, and felt we can't let the party die, that it was too important. And the party's been on the rise ever since."

The federal campaign is Edmonds' third run for office. He was the Green candidate in the 2017 provincial election in Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank. In 2019, he ran in the by-election in Sackville-Cobequid.

Edmonds is a drummer, and still enjoys playing gigs. He works on local dinner theatre productions with friends, building sets. He would like to strengthen the role of the arts in public schools. And after watching

*...continued on next page*

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Reminder: a permanent Household Special Waste Depot open on scheduled Saturdays is located at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive, Bayers Lake Business Park, Halifax.

## Matt Stickland

*NDP, Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook*

Former submariner Matt Stickland says that running for office is a lot like being on a military deployment. "There's the same hallmark features of a long naval deployment," Stickland told the *Cooperator*. "Way less dangerous—no one's shot at me yet! But like being on a deployment, you've got a team, you're working together, you have control over your own responsibilities, you've always got to be on....you start losing track of what day it is, or even what time it is."



One of the biggest surprises going door-to-door was hearing that what politicians talk about "is not at all what people talk about on their doorsteps. I was surprised by people's willingness to share some of their most personally traumatic, scary, or hard times with a stranger. They'll just open up their hopes."

Stickland encountered a lot of frustration. "People are very frustrated. They'll have specific issues, like health care, or their pensions not being enough. I've heard several stories of people losing a partner, and finding they don't have enough money, that

they're facing homelessness at age 89. A lot of people feel that nothing has changed since the 1970s."

Stickland had wanted to join the armed forces since he was a child, and ended up in the submarine service almost by accident when he went to an enlistment office. He was on board for a cruise that broke the record for length of time at sea on one of Canada's diesel-electric subs.

But a deployment to Libya in 2011

*...continued on page 16*

*...Edwards continued from page 14*

friends struggle to get the help they need for mental illness, he would fight for major increases in federal funding for mental health.

Edwards is a strong supporter of establishing a universal basic income. "We need a non-means-tested program to ensure that people, especially those with children, have the means to live. When we create all these programs that are targeted to specific problems—unemployed, disabled, minors—we're creating a secondary class of people. That's antithetical to building a sense of community and cohesion and solidarity within our country."

But if there were one change that Edmonds thinks would make solving other problems easier, Edmonds wants the country to adopt proportional representation. "I'm a very strong supporter of PR. It would be difficult to come up with a less representative form of government that what we have now, first-past-the-post. FPTP makes everything about wedge issues. There's more to be gained by putting down your opponent and seeking solutions. That's why I'm in this. If we could just get rid of FPTP, I would have no more reservations about having children."



## Musquodoboit Harbour & District Lions CHOWDER/SOUP COOK OFF

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*...Strickland continued from page 15*

eventually led him to leave the service. "I had a front row seat to the civil war there. It changed me. A lot of what we did over there didn't sit right. I was diagnosed with a 'moral injury.' The military was trying to avoid using 'PTSD'. I had a pretty dark time when I got back home, for about a year, but I finally asked for help, and started getting better."

Stickland enrolled at King's and graduated in May 2019 with a degree in journalism. "My journalist skill set would be an asset for whatever file I was put on in Ottawa. I see an MP's job as spending time to do good research so that the people they represent don't have to. I would love to be on the climate change committee. And I would do a lot of good on veterans; it was my life. I know the lived experience of veterans' issues."

As young parents, Stickland and his wife wrestled with making a

commitment that might require him to be away from his young son. "It came down to fatherhood and what that means to me. Because there are two main schools of thought, at least for me, about being a parent, two things that are important. One of those things is being present, making sure you're providing a good role model. But the other thing is, if you believe like I do, that we're killing our planet quicker than we ever have before, fatherhood also means making sure I'm taking care of his future."

"Eventually it comes back down to integrity, or whatever you want to call it. But I need to be able to look myself in the mirror, and I know that if this opportunity presented itself to me and I didn't take it... in this case I'm gainfully unemployed, I like to say at this point, I just got out of the military, I don't really have anything else on the go, I'm looking for something else to do, and I want it to be meaningful, I don't know I could look at myself in the mirror if I didn't at least try."

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#### MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH

Each October, community activities, events, sharing and showcasing Mi'kmaw people, history and heritage take place across Nova Scotia to more broadly heighten knowledge and awareness of Mi'kmaw communities across the region. October was chosen as Mi'kmaw History Month because it coincides with the anniversary of English settlers signing the inaugural peace and friendship treaty with the Mi'kmaw people. Treaty Day is designated October 1<sup>st</sup> as the date on which the Mi'kmaw people received a promise of peace along with compensation for appropriated lands, resources and the impact of conflict on people and communities across Mi'kma'ki. In an effort to assist all Nova Scotians in increasing their knowledge and awareness of Mi'kmaw culture, history and heritage, a Mi'kmaq History Month Committee was established to promote and encourage educational and cultural activities during the month of October. For more information, go to: <http://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca>

#### TRANSIT FARES INCREASE—SEPT. 30<sup>TH</sup>

Transit fares are increasing to reflect increased levels of service and rising operational costs. A jurisdictional scan shows that Halifax Transit fares are consistently lowest or second-lowest when compared with Canadian cities of similar population and transit fleet size. HRM Regional Council approved the motion to increase fares on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, then approved the fare by-law amendment on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and as a result, Halifax Transit fares will increase as of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Cash fares for regular transit & ferry will be: Children—FREE, Youth & Seniors \$2 and Adult \$2.75 and Metro-X Rural Express rates will be: Youth & Seniors \$3 and Adult \$4.25 There are discount savings for bulk purchase of 10 ticket packages or Monthly Passes. For more information: [www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit/fares-tickets-passes/fare-strategy-frequently-asked-questions](http://www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit/fares-tickets-passes/fare-strategy-frequently-asked-questions)

#### PROPERTY TAXES DUE—OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup>

HRM invoices property tax bills to all property owners twice each year. The tax year covers the fiscal period of April 1<sup>st</sup>–March 31<sup>st</sup>. The first tax bill was sent out (either by mail or e-post) in March and was due on the last working day of April. The second and final bill will be sent out (either by mail or e-post) in September and is due on the last working day of October (Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>). The first (or interim) invoice is based on 50 per cent of the current year's estimated taxes but based on last year's rates. The final invoice is calculated using the current assessment with the current year's tax rates, less the amount you already paid from the first invoice. The total amounts billed must be paid by the due date to avoid interest charges. Interest is applied daily to all outstanding taxes at a rate of 15 per cent per annum. For more information; please call 311 or visit HRM web-site: [www.halifax.ca/home-property/municipal-payments/making-a-payment](http://www.halifax.ca/home-property/municipal-payments/making-a-payment)

#### HRM HSW MOBILE DEPOT—OCT. 5<sup>TH</sup>



HRM has rescheduled its Household Special Waste (HSW) Mobile Drop Off Depot at the Oyster Pond Academy parking lot on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This replaces the event that was cancelled due to Hurricane Dorian back on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Hours of operation will be from 9AM-4PM. This is a Rain or Shine event! Electronics products and medical needles and sharps are not accepted at the HSW depot. Business waste is not permitted and will not be accepted either. For more information on HRM solid waste program including updates on any future mobile HSW depots; please call 311 or visit: [www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart/household-special-waste](http://www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart/household-special-waste)

#### CURBSIDE GIVEAWAY: OCT. 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup>



Curbside / Roadside Give Away is a bi-annual event that promotes diversion of reusable items from landfill by offering items for others to claim for free. It's time to give someone the chance to reuse things you no longer need, by recycling your clean and working goods. The dates are Saturday & Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Please check out this webpage for more information: [www.halifax.ca/recycle/CGAW.php](http://www.halifax.ca/recycle/CGAW.php) or at: [Facebook.com/HalifaxRecycles](https://www.facebook.com/HalifaxRecycles) and Twitter @hfxgov and #hfxcurbside.

#### AID FOR INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY

As we coped with another dry summer, many rural residents experienced dry or very low wells. HRM now has a bylaw whereby landowners that are experiencing inadequate water supply on their home property to apply to the municipality to assist with the financing of drilling a new well or seek other water supply alternatives such as a cistern or water collection systems. Basically, taking out a 10 year term loan from HRM that places a lien onto your property like any local betterment charge. This is similar arrangement for the Solar City Program. More details about the this program can be found at: [www.halifax.ca/home-property/property-taxes/water-supply-program/water-supply-program-faq](http://www.halifax.ca/home-property/property-taxes/water-supply-program/water-supply-program-faq). And the HRM Council Bylaw C-1000 Report is found at: [www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/190226rci05.pdf](http://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/190226rci05.pdf). Anyone with additional questions can direct their enquiries to: [bylawc1000@halifax.ca](mailto:bylawc1000@halifax.ca). or contact Rose Preston at [prestora@halifax.ca](mailto:prestora@halifax.ca) or call 902-490-4197 or 311. An application form for this program can be downloaded at: [www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/home-property/property-taxes/HRM-By-Law-C-1000-Dry-Wells-Application-Form.pdf](http://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/home-property/property-taxes/HRM-By-Law-C-1000-Dry-Wells-Application-Form.pdf). Furthermore, HRM EMO wants to know more data about exactly where rural residents are having dry well problems. Please call 311 or 902-490-4000 and have your property documented. This information will help HRM to prepare for future Emergency Drinking Water distribution programs.

#### COMMUNITY WELLNESS FUNDS

The Southeastern and Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Boards annually provides "Wellness Funds" grants to support projects addressing the social determinants of health such as; poverty, food insecurity, healthy lifestyles, early childhood development, literacy, safe/affordable housing and social isolation. Deadline to apply is October 15<sup>th</sup>. For more info, contact: Monique Mullins-Roberts; SECHB Coordinator [Monique.Mullins-Roberts@nshealth.ca](mailto:Monique.Mullins-Roberts@nshealth.ca) at 902-460-6869 or Denise VanWycken, ESMCHB Coordinator [denise.vanwycken@nshealth.ca](mailto:denise.vanwycken@nshealth.ca) at 902-891-0372 For full funding details visit: [www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/wellness-funds](http://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/wellness-funds) or check out their Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternCHB/> <https://www.facebook.com/ESMCHB/>

#### OPEN-AIR BURNING SEASON AGAIN

As of October 16<sup>th</sup>, (weather permitting) and whether the NS Forest Weather Index (FWI) [www.novascotia.ca/BurnSafe](http://www.novascotia.ca/BurnSafe) is at a low or moderate reading, the time of day burning restrictions will be lifted. For more information about open-air burning and safe burning practices: [www.halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/burning-permits/burning-rules-regulations](http://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/burning-permits/burning-rules-regulations). Please be careful whenever burning!

#### CLAM HARBOUR SALVAGE YARD PIM

There will be a Public Information Meeting (PIM) on Wed. October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7P.M. in the West Ship Harbour Community Hall to receive public input about an application for a proposed Salvage Yard facility at 4442 Clam Harbour Road. More information about Case #22198 can be found at: [www.halifax.ca/business/planning-development/applications/case-22198-clam-harbour-bay-rd-clam-harbour](http://www.halifax.ca/business/planning-development/applications/case-22198-clam-harbour-bay-rd-clam-harbour) or contact HRM Planner: Maria Jacobs by phone 902-490-4911 or by email at [jacobsm@halifax.ca](mailto:jacobsm@halifax.ca)

#### NS FOREST FESTIVAL—OCT. 26<sup>TH</sup>

Memory Lane Heritage Village at 5435 Clam Harbour Road in Lake Charlotte will be hosting its third annual Forest Festival on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10A.M.–4P.M. Free Admission. This will be a showcase of the many ways Nova Scotians connect to the Province's forests for their livelihood, housing, recreation, food, and heritage. Enjoy demonstrations and hands-on activities for all ages. Try your hand at axe-throwing. So grab your plaid and head for the woods! For more information; call 902-845-1937 or go to: <https://heritagevillage.ca>



Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor—Counciller municipal—Comhairlaiche—Wunaqapeme'  
District 2: Preston—Chezzetcook—Eastern Shore

Railway Museum – #7895 Highway #7  
P.O. Box 2, Musquodoboit Harbour, NS, B0J 2L0

1841 Argyle Street, Councillor's Support, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

Office Phone: 902.889.2448  
Cell Phone: 902.483.0705  
City Hall: 902.490.4050  
Fax: 902.829.3620

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[David.hendsbee.ns.ca@gmail.com](mailto:David.hendsbee.ns.ca@gmail.com)  
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## The Gaetz Brook Greenway: Just the Facts

*By the Board of Directors of SATA Trails Society*

SATA Trails Society was founded in 2014 to promote the development and use of active transportation trails/greenways in Porters Lake and surrounding communities to Musquodoboit Harbour. The federal government defines active transportation as using your own power to get from one place to another (which includes recognized mobility devices such as electric wheelchairs.)

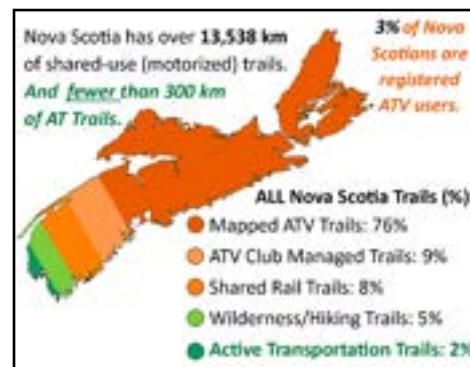
As you can see from the map below, the number of active transportation trails/greenways in Nova Scotia is a small percentage of the total number of trails. Using publicly available information, we found that there are

more than 13,000 km of motorized trails, also called "shared use trails," or "mixed use trails." There are fewer than 300 km of active transportation trails or non-motorized greenways, roughly 2% of the length of all trails. (See the map for a breakdown of all Nova Scotia trails.)

### The Province Decides on Trail Use

For trails on provincial (Crown) land, the Department of Lands and Forestry makes the decision about whether a proposed trail should be an active transportation trail, or a motorized trail. In 2017, SATA Trails Society was granted the Letter of Authority (LoA) from the Department of Lands and Forestry (DLF) to develop an AT trail along the Gaetz Brook Greenway from East Chezzetcook to Musquodoboit Harbour. This was after public consultation and analysis by a professional consultant hired by DLF. There was a competing application from a local ATV group for a motorized trail.

Trail construction has now begun by the local company, Peter S. Conrod Construction Ltd. Bridge upgrades and trail clearing were completed under



*For the sources of these figures, go to 'Gaetz Brook Greenway, SATA Trails Society' (@SATATrails) on Facebook.*

*...continued on next page*

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**WWW.STUFFESTATESALEPEOPLE.COM**

...Greenway continued from page 18

previous contracts.

AT trails offer some advantages over motorized trails, including:

- Lower maintenance costs because non-motorized surfaces last up to 5 times longer;
- Fewer collisions, and fewer accidents caused by impaired surface conditions;
- Less impact on the natural environment, and fewer greenhouse gases;
- A boost to tourism and economic investments in the community from trail use;
- Lower health care costs because of the benefits of low-impact aerobic exercise from walking and biking.
- Greatest accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.

#### Trail Design and Disabilities

The new greenway will be surfaced with crusher dust and will provide a firm, stable rut-free surface for people using recognized mobility devices, including electric wheelchairs, as well as for walkers and cyclists.

The design for the new greenway, which Lands and Forestry approved, reflects the Province's commitment, under the Disability Act, to safely accommodate people with all types of disabilities and health challenges. Nova Scotia

has the highest percentage of people with disabilities in Canada. Recognized mobility devices (including electric wheelchairs) can be used as needed on the stable surface.

AT trails are safer, especially for people with vision and hearing challenges. People with mental health and sensory processing challenges appreciate the quiet atmosphere, and people with asthma, approximately 8% of Nova Scotians, and other breathing issues appreciate the emission-free air.

Construction, which will enhance our beautiful community, should be completed in 2020 when the trail will be open to people of all ages and abilities to enjoy our natural environment.



#### SAVE THE DATE!

*A fundraiser/concert/potluck to support the Cooperator!*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

**5:00-8:00pm**

*The Old School in  
Musquodoboit Harbour  
With Jim Reid and Friends*

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# PIN IT UP

## COMMUNITY LISTINGS PAGE



Deadline for the November issue is October 15  
escsubmissions@eastlink.ca

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENT**  
www.easternshorecooperator.ca

### Musquodoboit Harbour Roundtable

October 3 at 10am  
The Old School, Musq. Hbr.  
If you are an organization, business or service provider who works with seniors please join us for this discussion. RSVP to denise.vanwychen@nshealth.ca

### Fall Open House

October 5 at 9am  
Meagher's Grant Community Hall

### Household Special Waste Depot

October 5 starting at 9:00am  
Oyster Pond Academy

### Ocean Breeze Trail Run

October 5 at 10:00am  
Atlantic View Trail, Lawrencetown

### Dance to High Tide

October 5 at 9pm | \$10 adv/\$12 door  
Chezzetcook Lion's Club  
hightidebands@gmail.com

### Back Country HIKE & MEDITATION

**Experience with Lori Taylor**  
October 6 at 8am | \$30  
Musquodoboit Trailways, Musq. Hbr.  
Registration required, reasonable level of fitness is encouraged; hike could take 10 hours including meditation practices.

### Porters Lake Flea Market-FREE admmiss.

October 6 at 9am-1pm  
Porters Lake Community Centre

### Musquodoboit Hbr Farmers Market

October 6, 13, 20, 27 from 9am-1pm  
Local organic produce and meats, homemade pies, cookies, breads, cakes and preservative-free chocolates. Homemade soaps and bath products, handcrafted jewelry and artwork.

### Self Help Weekly Meet Up

October 6 at 2pm  
The Old School, Musq. Hbr.  
A group intended for people living with mental health challenges.

### Discover Solar PV in Musquodoboit

October 8 at 6pm  
Musquodoboit Harbour Public Library  
Free event but registration appreciated.

### Community Music Jam-FREE

October 8 at 6pm (every Tuesday)  
The Old School, Musq. Hbr.

### Lively Conversations: Elmsdale

October 8 at 6:30pm  
Cup Of Soul in Elmsdale  
Focuses on empowering and connecting women in their own neighborhoods

### Jon Cyr at the Porters Lake Pub

October 10 at 7pm

### Lion's Thanksgiving Dinner-FREE

October 12 at 4:30pm  
Musquodoboit Harbour Lion's Club  
Take-out begins at 5pm.

### Oktoberfest Buffet

October 12 at 6:30pm | \$32  
Salmon River Country Inn & Mermaid Eatery in Head Jeddore  
Margit@SalmonRiverCountryInn.ca

### OPA Craft Sale 2019

October 17 at 6pm  
Oyster Pond Academy  
opacraftsale.2019@outlook.com

### 2nd Chance Clothing Sale -Free admmiss.

Oct. 18 at 6pm | Oct. 19 9am-noon  
St. David's United Church, Lake Echo  
Food bank donations welcome.

### Soul Charge Weekend

October 18 at 7pm-October 20 | \$511  
Feel alive, inspired & connected.  
Re-energize your mind, body & soul.  
womenindharma.com

### Lions Chowder/Soup Cook Off

October 19 at 1pm  
Eastern Shore Community Centre  
Enter your best chowder/soup for \$25.  
1st-\$100/2nd-\$75/3rd-\$50

### Halloween Dance with Ruckus

October 19 at 8pm | \$15.00  
Petpeswick Yacht Club, Musq. Hbr.  
For tickets, call Paula at 902-889-2435.

### Eastern Shore Players Present: "Let's [Not] Talk About It"

October 20 at 2pm · \$15.00  
Bicentennial Theatre in Middle Musq.

### Election Day!

October 21 from 8:30am-8:30pm  
Advance polling runs October 11-14 from 9am-9pm. Check your voter information card or visit elections.ca

### Pressure Canning Workshop

October 24 at 10am  
TBA in Sheet Harbour

### Wear Your Poppy

October 25-November 12  
In remembrance of the men and women who suffered and sacrificed serving their country. Support veterans and their families.

### The Creative Soul Retreat

October 25 at 3pm-October 28  
Attention female photographers - Learn how to incorporate soul into your business.  
deedeemorris.com

### Nova Scotia Forest Festival

October 26 at 10:00 AM  
Memory Lane Heritage Village, Lake Charlotte. Grab your plaid and head for the woods!

### A Haunting in Seaforth - 19+

October 26 at 10am  
The Seaforth Hall in Seaforth

### Saltwater Soul 'Seriously Old School' Market

October 26 at 11am  
The Old School, Musquodoboit Harbour  
Our amazing vendors are thrilled to be part of this amazing opportunity to showcase unique offerings, from tarot readings to handcrafted lip balm! Always great food and something entertaining!

### Barra MacNeils Concert

October 26 at 7pm · \$45.00  
Eastern Shore District High School  
For tickets, call 902-889-2359.  
(See ad below for more details.)

### Lion's Pancake Breakfast

October 27 at 7:30am · \$7.00  
Musquodoboit Harbour Lion's Club

### ASPES Annual Membership Meeting & Elections

October 28 at 7pm  
Wildlife Association in Sheet Harbour  
Elections, discussion of fish farming.



happy  
halloween

In Support of the First United Church  
Musquodoboit Harbour

*The Barra MacNeil's  
in Concert*

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Eastern Shore District High School  
35 West Petpeswick Rd., Musq. Hbr.  
Saturday, October 26, 2019  
Doors open at 6pm concert at 7pm

Tickets \$45

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Opening Performance by  
**Chad Doucette**  
Canadian Idol Season 4, 4th place finalist  
For tickets contact:  
First United Church 902-889-2359  
or Rev. Joan 902-891-0556

## The Little Wells That Changed the World

By Richard Bell

The two capped wells on the side of the road leading to the ball field in Musquodoboit Harbour don't look like much. But these wells made the career of a budding geologist named George Pinder and put Musquodoboit Harbour on the world scientific map.

At the local level, Pinder's research also established that the underlying aquifer was more than capable of supplying enough good quality water to supply the core business section of Musquodoboit Harbour. "The aquifer is quite remarkable," Pinder said in a phone interview in July. "It's right adjacent to the river, so if there's a large enough demand, the aquifer will pull water from the river. But unlike pumping the water straight from the river, the aquifer filters it first."

Pinder was a graduate student at the University of Illinois who came to Musquodoboit Harbour in 1968 for a summer job with the Nova Scotia Department of Mines.

"I was the one who decided to drill alongside the Musquodoboit River," Pinder said. "What I wanted to do was to monitor how the aquifer responded to a flood wave from a big storm coming down the river. As the river rises and falls, there's an impact that propagates into the aquifer which we could watch move across the line of wells."

Back at the university, Pinder used the data from his well study to make a computer model of groundwater movement using differential equations to simulate his findings. "That model was the first of its kind," Pinder said. "I do much more sophisticated models now, but they're all based on that little experiment in Musquodoboit Harbour. The current model is the gold standard for groundwater modeling everywhere in the world."

Pinder's work has earned him many awards over the years. He became a member of the prestigious National Academy of Engineering in 2010. And in 2016, he received a lifetime achievement award from the Environmental and Water Resources Institute, a division of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Pinder also had a brush with a very different kind of stardom as a key witness in the lawsuit by residents of Woburn, Massachusetts against W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods for causing leukemias by contaminating the water table with carcinogens. He was on the witness stand for 12 days during the trial, which became the basis for the best-selling book, *A Civil Action*, and the 1998 Oscar-nominated film by the same name. (An actor played Pinder by name in the movie.)

### Our Sincere Thanks

To the many people of this community who supported us over the past many months as we journeyed through various cancer treatments and trips to Boston for tests and treatment planning –

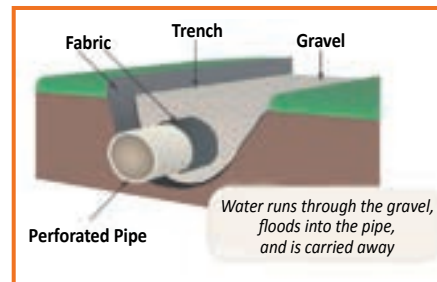
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Allan and Janet Gaskin



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## Chamber Celebrates 5th Anniversary

By Emma Murphy for the MHACCCA

With an aging population and uncertainty around the future of our rural communities, the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Community Association decided to host a meeting to determine whether there would be interest in creating a new Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs, modelled after the Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs.

This initial meeting was held on November 9, 2014 at the Petpeswick Yacht Club, where an overwhelming number of people gave support to establish a Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs. A “steering committee” was nominated and endorsed by the community, to draft bylaws and draw up a suggested Board of Directors.

Following in the footsteps of the Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs, the first order of business that the MHACCCA focused on was establishing a Community Development Plan, building on the 2007 Community Vision.

In the fall of 2015, Ekistics Plan + Design began work, holding several community consultations to determine the community’s priorities, such as sidewalks, street beautification, water and sewer, and affordable housing.

The final document, which was completed in March 2017, describes a 20-year vision for Musquodoboit Harbour, with phases for each of the major projects. Since the Community Development Plan was launched the MHACCCA Board of Directors and volunteers have accomplished the following priorities from the Community Development Plan:

- Ongoing investigation of the pollution in Petpeswick Inlet taken on by the Infrastructure Committee lead by John Woods, where they have uncovered deficiencies with the hospital treatment plant and have since made recommendations to their Approval to Operate. They have also discovered that

storm water from ESDH was being inadvertently directed to the treatment plant.

- Upgrades to the Rail Museum – provided funds to help celebrate their anniversary, repair benches and donated flower boxes, fruit trees and shrubs.
- Beautification – banner program, planter boxes, trees and shrubs planted throughout the core of Musquodoboit Harbour.
- Removed out-dated and faded signage throughout the community.
- Sidewalks – survey has been completed to assess the property lines along Highway 7
- Hosted the Business Excellence Awards Gala and other events.
- Monthly Town Halls to keep the membership informed on current projects and issues.

Along with the goals in the Community Development Plan, there have been several other pressing issues that have arisen in the community that the MHACCCA has taken on:

- In response to the announcement of a new school to replace

Eastern Shore District High, the MHACCCA collaborated with Musquodoboit Harbour & Area Community Association, The Old School Community Gathering Place, and community members to develop a student-first business case for building the new school in Musquodoboit Harbour.

- Ongoing communications with Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Kevin Murphy, MLA to argue for community consultation for the new school site selection.
- Board member sitting on the Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee and Wild Islands Tourism Advancement Partnership.
- Spearheaded community discussion around the Common Area Rate.

The MHACCCA would like to thank all of the volunteers who have committed time to serving on the Board of Directors, committees and general activities over the past five years. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with this important work, please contact us at [info@mhacc.ca](mailto:info@mhacc.ca) to get involved. As they say, many hands make light work.



## Business Excellence Awards Gala

November 2, 2019 | 5:30pm | Memory Lane Heritage Village

### Tickets

Members \$45

Non-members \$50

*Cash bar available*

Purchase at Uprooted Market & Cafe, Dobbitt Bakehouse or online at [www.mhacc.ca](http://www.mhacc.ca)

### Nominations now open

Business of the Year  
Business Leader of the Year  
Community Spirit Award

To submit a nomination please visit [www.mhacc.ca](http://www.mhacc.ca)

### Menu

Herbed bread with whipped butter  
Garden salad with balsamic dressing

—  
Roasted free range chicken with  
apple sage stuffing,  
locally sourced parsley potatoes and  
seasonal roasted vegetables

—  
Valley apple crumble cake  
with hot rum sauce

# SEAN FRASER

## CHOOSE FORWARD

### Getting to know Sean!

Before serving as your Member of Parliament, Sean had a successful legal career with one of Canada's top-ranked law firms, where he practiced commercial litigation and international dispute resolution.

He also spent time working for a human rights organization in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sean has a law degree from Dalhousie University, a Master's degree in Public International Law, and a Bachelor of Science from St. Francis Xavier University.

Sean is your best choice to continue making a positive difference on issues that matter to people here at home.

That's why on election day in October, he's asking for your support to once again be your Member of Parliament.



Authorized by the Official Agent  
for Sean Fraser. Designed locally.  
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