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Central Nova MP Candidates



Jesiah MacDonald
NDP Candidate, pg 4



Brycen Jenkins
PC Candidate, pg 5



Sean Fraser
Liberal Candidate, pg 5

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Thank You

Our families and I would like to thank all those people who sent cards of condolences on the passing of my husband Bernard (Bud) Chambers.

Special thanks to the Palliative Care Nurse who assisted in his peaceful passing. Thanks also to the Personal Care Workers who helped care for Bud. We were very pleased to see many of Bud's old friends at the gathering held at our home.

It is nice to know that Bud was so loved and admired by the community in which he worked for many years.

We will all miss him very much.

Blossom Chambers



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ALL THINGS REAL ESTATE

What is happening with the Spring market this year?

As the snow melts and temperatures rise, the local real estate market is warming up for a busy spring season. Traditionally, this time of year sees increased buyer interest, more listings, and competitive pricing, making it a prime time for both buyers and sellers to make a move.

February 2025 saw a significant boost in home sales, with transactions increasing by 27.6% from January, totaling 268 sales. The average number of days on the market decreased from 52 in January to 40 in February, indicating heightened demand. The Bank of Canada's decision to cut rates by 25 basis points to 2.75% is expected to further stimulate the housing market.

Whether you're looking to buy your first home, upgrade, or downsize, spring is the time to act. With more choices, motivated sellers, and renewed market activity, it's an exciting season for real estate. Thinking about making a move? Now's the time to connect with a local real estate professional to navigate this dynamic market.

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2025 Federal Election Candidates for Central Nova

By Richard Bell

The federal election will take place on April 28, 2025. *The Cooperator* has interviewed candidates from the three major parties. Two of the candidates have not run for public office before. Although no candidate debates are yet scheduled, all three said that they would be happy to participate in a debate on the Eastern Shore.

Jesiah MacDonald, NDP

Jesiah MacDonald brings a long career as an activist on gay rights to his first run for public office. "I've been interested in politics all my life," MacDonald told the *Cooperator* in a phone interview. "My personal struggles have sort of led me to examining who held power and then how to balance that power in

favour of average folks."

MacDonald's struggles became intense in 2010. He had begun taking hormones to transition in 2008. In 2010, he needed a hysterectomy for health reasons, but the province refused to pay, arguing that the operation was not covered because it was part of his transition.

MacDonald filed a human rights complaint and started working to change the law. In 2012, the legislature passed an amendment to include gender rights and identify.

In 2015, in response to the human rights complaint, the IWK apologized, and he was reimbursed for the operation and the hospital care. He published a

book about his experiences, *One More Minute*, available on Amazon.ca. "I knew it was never going to be a best-seller – it was a passion project."

In 2012, he helped establish the Nova Scotia Trans Justice society. "We were advocating for funding for sexual reassignment surgery, and for better sexual health education in schools," MacDonald said.

MacDonald's efforts to raise the funds for his own surgery got him in trouble with the law. "I had talked to a clinic in Halifax who gave me an estimate of \$12,000 for the surgery," MacDonald said. "That was a huge number. So when I heard through the grapevine that I could live rent-free to housesit a few dozen marijuana plants, I moved in with my two cats. But I was a terrible gardener and killed almost all the plants."

The RCMP arrested MacDonald, who was facing at least a minimum 6-month jail term. "My lawyer argued that I wouldn't be physically safe in prison," MacDonald said. "I was thankful that Jude Scarvelli, now retired, took into consideration my safety concerns. In the end, he sentenced me to probation and a \$1,000 fine."

MacDonald worked off the fine doing community service with the Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health, which was conveniently located next door to the probation office. "I did my hours, and when my probation was up, I ended up staying with the group for seven years, becoming a board member and eventually vice-chair of the board. I had no more problems with the police. In fact, I would have them in for tea and answer their questions about dealing with gender-diverse people."

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APRIL 16TH

At the national level, MacDonald served on the Trans Community Advisory Committee that worked with the Canada AIDS Society on policies dealing with the trans community.

MacDonald also has worked in the bakery business. "My mother and I started 'Cakes and Things' in 2014, baking for the Sunday flea market," MacDonald said. "It was her way of helping me out. I learned how to make bread. And I found that beating that bread dough got out my frustrations and made for a great light bread too." They opened a storefront in 2016, which ran until the combination of Covid and his father's terminal cancer diagnosis led them to close in 2020.

MacDonald's primary exposure to the Eastern Shore has been on numerous camping trips over the years. "I know that Pictou tends to dominate Central Nova, and that you guys on the Eastern Shore feel you get left out all the time."

In addition to LGBTQ issues, MacDonald said he saw creating sustainable jobs and affordable housing as two of his national priorities. More locally, he wants to look into the operations of the Northumberland Ferry. "I spent a season working on the ferry," MacDonald said. "I'm concerned that Transport Canada is refusing to release the full audit report on the ferry."

Facebook: Jesiah for Central Nova

Brycen Jenkins, Progressive Conservative

Like so many people growing up in Nova Scotia, Brycen Jenkins found himself going out west to work.

"My Dad is a millwright at the Trenton Generation Station," Jenkins told the *Cooperator* in a phone interview. "After high school, I went to community college. The trade I took was as a welding inspector and an NDT (Non-Destructive Testing) technician. Once I got my trade, I was fortunate enough to work across the country in different sectors across Canada, whether that was oil and gas in Alberta, nuclear in Ontario, or pulp and paper in British Columbia."

In 2021, in an effort to spend more time in Nova Scotia, Jenkins got his real estate license, and has since split his time between working out west and selling real estate in Pictou County.

Despite spending part of the year out west, Jenkins has stayed connected with his community. "I was a volunteer firefighter for a couple of years," Jenkins said. "I have a role on the Business Advisory Committee for New Glasgow. I'm an active member of the Kinsmen Club here as well. And I'm the former co-president of Pictou County Ultimate, which is really a frisbee club. I play soccer year round. I'm a terrible golfer, but I love golf. I enjoy the social aspects of golfing."

Jenkins credits his interest in politics to a visit that Tim Houston made to his parents while he was in high school. "The first politician I ever met was the premier, Tim Houston," Jenkins said. "He came to visit my parents, and when he was about to leave, my parents told him I was interested in politics. Tim kind of took me under his wing. Since then, I've been door knocking for his campaigns. And I was involved with his leadership bid for the party in 2018."

Jenkins is not married. "I'll say that being single will free me up for all the work an MP has to do," Jenkins said. "I completely respect Sean Fraser's wanting to spend more time with his family. With working away like I have, I've met so many men and women that work there who really miss their families, right? So, I respect his decision to leave a job that I know he loves."

Selling real estate has given Jenkins a close-up look at the country's housing crisis. "When I got into the industry, it was devastating to hear from people that, they've lived in this community for generations, and they have the same job that their parents did, and they can no longer afford a home."

"I know one of the big things about housing is putting more supply on the market," Jenkins said. "To get more supply on the market, we need to get more young people into trades. The trade route is probably one of the best routes a young person can go in Canada right now."

Jenkins wants to generate more jobs in Nova Scotia, so young people don't have to leave to find work. "When I was in high school, if you'd asked a class of 30 kids how many wanted to work in Nova Scotia, maybe 2 kids would have raised their hands," Jenkins said. "I want kids to raise their hands and say, 'I want to be here, I want to live and work here.'"

Jenkins said that he was aware of the problems that the Eastern Shore faces as a rural area embedded in the urban-focused government of HRM, and that he was already holding meetings along the shore. "I know that people on the

Shore feel like they're not a priority for HRM, and that the North Shore is the focus of the riding. I have a great relationship with Premier Houston, and with all of the seven PC MLAs in the Central Nova riding."

Facebook: Bryson Jenkins for Central Nova; email: brycenjenkinsforcentralnova@gmail.com

Sean Fraser, Liberals

Sean Fraser, who announced his retirement from politics in December, surprised everyone by announcing on Tuesday, March 25, that he had changed his mind and would run for re-election after all. And on hand for the announcement at Steeple Green Books in Musquodoboit Harbour was Prime Minister Mark Carney, plus a very happy standing-room-only crowd of Liberal supporters.

"I had made peace with the idea that there was going to be life after politics and figuring out what capacity that would be in," Fraser said. "But then I received a call yesterday from the Prime Minister asking if I would reconsider and step up to help out during this unprecedented economic challenge."

In stepping down, Fraser had emphasized his need to spend more time with his wife and young children. "The bulk of my conversation with the Prime Minister turned quickly to whether we could build in protections for a young parent to actually do the job effectively without giving up on the idea that you should be there for your kids."

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Send all info to sandra@easternshorecooperator.ca.
 For more info contact above email or phone 902-452-0520.



...Federal Election Candidates Continued

"I spent somewhere in the ballpark of 140 nights last year in a hotel room," Fraser said. "That is not a healthy environment for a young person trying to raise kids. We need to tackle this issue because there are a lot of good people, disproportionately young women who are raising kids, who choose not to contribute their immense talents to politics because they simply can't make it work for family considerations. That's not just a loss for the person who doesn't get to run. That's a loss for the entire country when we're missing out on that extraordinary talent."

"I have assurances and comfort that I'm going to be able to be closer to home than I was over the course of the past few years and still make a contribution to the country that we all love."

Fraser said he would consider any offer the Prime Minister might make to join the Cabinet. "But it's not possible for me to be the minister for international affairs, for example. It's very important for me to ensure that I have the ability to defend the interests of my family."

Fraser said that he had met Graham Murray, whom the Liberal Party had just selected for the Central Nova riding.

"He is a top-class person. He has demonstrated character and grace, and I hope he remains engaged and interested in politics in our community and our country, and I look forward to continuing to engage

with him. He will be supporting our campaign in the community."

Asked about his chances of winning another term, Fraser cautioned his supporters. "This is not a Liberal stronghold. You can take nothing for granted. This was historically one of the most conservative ridings in Nova Scotia, perhaps Canada."

Fraser argued that Trump's threats to Canadian sovereignty were leading Canadians to think about politics differently.

"The reality we're experiencing now is that people are waking up not just to their traditional voting behaviour, but the real threats that are facing Canada," Fraser said. "They are having an honest conversation with themselves about who is better to lead our country through these turbulent economic times."

"On the one hand, they have Mark Carney, who's one of the most respected voices on economic issues globally," Fraser said. "And on the other hand, they have Pierre Poilievre, who doesn't really have work experience outside of being a politician for his entire career."

EDITORIAL: Weakening Democracy in Nova Scotia

Tim Houston has reminded us once again of the grave weaknesses of what passes for democracy in Nova Scotia. When we elect a majority government of whatever party, a Premier can pretty much do whatever he or she damn well pleases, with the only check being a distant election or the courts.

I had been impressed, as were most Nova Scotians, by the many different initiatives that Houston undertook to improve the health care system. What we needed was what Houston was delivering, an evolving series of new programs aimed at gradually improving the health care system. Voters were so grateful for a leader who followed through on his main campaign promise that they rewarded Houston with a majority last fall.

What the voters were not doing was signing off in any way, shape, or form, on the "flood the zone" package of authoritarian legislation that the PCs are proposing to enact into law. Houston said almost nothing about any of these controversial proposals during his campaign.

...continued on next page

New Community Health Plan

The Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board (ESMCHB) has proudly launched its 2025-2029 Community Health Plan, aiming to enhance health and well-being across the Eastern Shore and Musquodoboit Valley. This plan is part of a broader initiative by the seven community health boards (CHBs) in Nova Scotia Health's Central Zone (Halifax area, Eastern Shore, and West Hants).

From October 2023 to February 2024, ESMCHB engaged with the community through open houses, markets, facilitated sessions, online surveys, youth Google form responses, and comment cards. Nearly 400 people from the Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley region shared their input, helping shape the plan.

While the priorities for both the Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley and Central Zone are largely aligned, the order of importance varied slightly. The key priorities identified for the Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley region were housing, food insecurity, income, social connections, active communities, transportation, and communications.

A central theme that emerged across the zone was affordability, identified as a key challenge impacting well-being. Participants stressed the need for strong advocacy at all government levels to reduce the cost of living, enhance income levels, and make life

more affordable so that people can live healthier lives.

Engagement participants also highlighted the critical importance of local access to programs and services across these seven priorities. They called for a diverse range of health and community offerings that are safe, inclusive, and easily accessible within their own communities. Spaces that encourage physical activity and foster social connections were emphasized as essential to overall well-being.

The Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board is eager to collaborate with local partners to tackle these pressing issues and advocate for meaningful change. The Board is dedicated to fostering stronger social connections, enhancing access to affordable food, and promoting physical activity through initiatives such as Neighbourhood Kits, Nova Scotia Walk Day events, community food conversations, and supporting existing local activities. Together, we aim to create a healthier, more connected community for all.

To view the community health plan in English or French visit www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca or connect with the Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board coordinator, Denise VanWycken at denise.vanwycken@nshealth.ca.



April Events SR Balcom Centre Port Dufferin

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check out our Facebook page
SR Balcom Centre Association.

April 1st
Together Tuesday
Open at 10:00am-3:00pm

April 5th & 19th
Bingo
Doors open at 1:00pm

April 12th
Harbour Lights & Friends
By Donation
2:00-4:00pm

April 28th
AGM
6:30pm

Meet new people and have some fun!

...Weakening Democracy Cont'd

Instead of strengthening our rights to know what our government was up to, he weakened an already weak law. He proposed giving the government greater powers to interfere with academic freedom. And he is tossing out several generations of work to protect the province's most precious resource, its environment, from uranium mining and fracking.

To add insult to injury, Houston chose to adopt the standard authoritarian technique, demonizing any possible opposition under the insulting and condescending name, "special interests." It is no surprise that neither Houston nor a single person in his party has been willing to define this term. Corporate public relations firms have been using this term for years on behalf of the real "special interests," giant corporations and the new armada of billionaires.

If there is some light in this darkness, it's our knowledge that at least in some cases that have generated massive public opposition, Houston has been willing to change his mind. When his proposal to allow him to fire the Auditor General at will generated too much heat, he backed off.


If he wants to leave office with the reputation as a good Premier, Houston needs to make some serious changes in how he and his team go forward, starting with giving the voters a chance to respond to his legislative proposals *before* he introduces them. We should not have to keep going through this process of one government after another developing legislative proposals in secret, springing them on the public, and only backing off if there is a massive public outcry.

Our understanding as we go to press is that Houston, except for deleting the proposal to fire the AG for cause, does not intend to withdraw any of the other

controversial provisions – this despite hours of public testimony against the proposal changes before the Public Bills Committee. We encourage everyone who is proud to belong to Houston's "special interests" to keep fighting for a more open and more honest government.

– Richard Bell, Editor

[To watch the almost 12 hours of people speaking against Houston's package at the Public Bills Committee meeting on March 17, 2025, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waUnSlvEjlc&list=PLGn3UOvEam0sLvpqXaZ0zWI-Vohms-LUx&index=4>.]

<h2>Rowlings Funeral Home</h2>	7795 Hwy. #7 Musquodoboit Hbr. NS BOJ 2L0	Happy Easter 
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Well-Being Hub Wins Three-Year Grant

By Lesley Magee, Executive Director, Well-Being Hub

If you have ever worked or volunteered with a community organization, you have likely had conversations around funding. Some organizations rely on effort-intensive fundraising activities, requiring a strong and dedicated volunteer contingent. Others fund their work primarily through short-term grants, which are generally earmarked for "pilot" or "new" programming and don't allow organizations to use funding to cover operating costs. More often than not, organizations cobble together their finances with a mix of grants and fundraising, and as a result of the funding opportunities available, many operate precariously.

Since non-profits often take on the work of government through grant funding, one option for change is to consider how funding is distributed. The Office of Addictions and Mental Health (OAMH) has listened to feedback from non-profits and has launched an innovative, multi-year funding structure – the Community Wellness Framework (CWF). The CWF will allow the non-profits that receive it to grow existing programs and services that are already successful, and to develop and refine new ones. It means staff will be able to focus more on delivering programs and services rather than spending much-needed human resources on the constant pursuit for funding.

The Well-Being HUB is fortunate to be among the first organizations in Nova Scotia to be granted three-year funding through the CWF. With the funding we will grow our Mental Wellness Navigation Service and develop and

deliver workshops and educational tools focused on improving mental health awareness.

One of our first activities will be to collect feedback from local organizations and businesses to find out about local training needs and interests. From that input, we'll offer a calendar of training opportunities for volunteers and staff in the community. Finally, our work will include helping improve the capacity for peer support in our area by providing training and informal supports.

Well-Being HUB Board Member Denise VanWychen says she is "thrilled that our project has received funding from the OAMH. This generous support will significantly enhance our ability to provide vital mental wellness services to the community. Through our peer support network, mental wellness programming, and capacity-building initiatives, we are empowering individuals to take an active role in their own well-being and creating a more compassionate, supportive environment for all. Together, we are building a resilient, informed, and caring community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

We are so excited to get this work started and hope you join us on the way!

Watch for details on new programming offerings in our Spring/Summer 2025 Guide, out for delivery in early April. Or contact us at 902-409-9007 or email admin@wellbeinghub.ca to request a copy.



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MLA MEMO

Statement on Tariffs

Tariffs imposed by China and those proposed by the United States will have an impact on our province's seafood sector. This is a very complicated and dynamic situation that will continue to evolve in the coming days and months.

As the Province work through this, the Province wants to assure the 20,000-plus workers in our seafood and aquaculture sectors that we're here for them and for all Nova Scotians.

The importance of our seafood sector to Nova Scotia cannot be overstated. It's the backbone of our rural communities and a foundation of our economy.

The Province will continue to support our seafood sector during these uncertain and challenging times to help ensure its long-term sustainability and prosperity.

The Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture has been in constant communication with our seafood businesses since the threat of tariffs emerged, I met with representatives to learn more about their situations, the potential impacts of tariffs on their businesses, as well as the supports they may need to mitigate these impacts.

The virtual meeting with fish buyers, processors and representatives from the aquaculture sector also included Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development, and Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. The Province will continue to engage with industry as the situation evolves.

Our Premier is working closely with his provincial and territorial colleagues, along with the Prime Minister, on a Team Canada approach to addressing the tariffs.

The Province has also established a tariff response hotline for all businesses, where they can get information, support and advice on the tariffs.

To help deal with the tariffs, the Province has set aside \$200 million for a contingency fund. Fisheries & Aquaculture also received an additional \$200,000 in permanent funding to support market diversification activities specific to the seafood

sector. There are many other supports at the federal and provincial levels for companies who wish to explore new markets.

The Province is already actively working on market diversification activities for our seafood sector, and the Province will accelerate our work on this front. In fact, the Premier and I made new connections and promoted our seafood to the world at North America's largest seafood expo in Boston.

The Province will also continue to work closely with the seafood sector, other provinces and the federal government to monitor developments and take action to bring the world back to fair and competitive international trade.

Tariff Response Hotline: <https://novascotia.ca/tariffs/> or call 1-800-670-4357

Addressing Intimate Partner Violence

The government is taking action to address the epidemic of intimate partner violence with a new \$23.7-million funding commitment to transition houses.

"An epidemic-level response means working together to support victims, survivors, families and communities, and no one understands how best to do that than the organizations on the front lines," said Premier Tim Houston, "The critical and often life-saving work led by our community-based partners has never been more urgent or more important. This new funding helps ensure these services and supports continue to be available to Nova Scotians when they need it."

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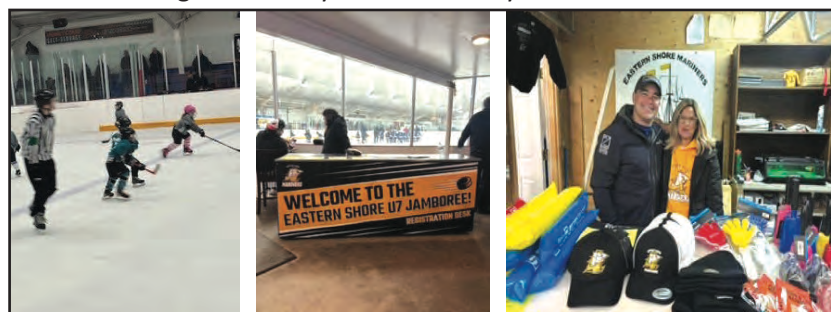
partners has never been more urgent or more important. This new funding helps ensure these services and supports continue to be available to Nova Scotians when they need it."

This investment includes \$17.9 million over four years to stabilize operations at 10 transition houses. The Province worked with the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia to ensure this new funding commitment would meet the needs of its members over the next several years.

The government is providing an additional \$1.9 million in project-based funding to association members to advance initiatives that prevent or address gender-based violence. This is part of \$5.8 million in new project-based funding for the sector. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Quick Facts

- the stabilization funding to transition houses is about \$4.4 million annually
- Budget 2024-25 included a \$7.7 million annual increase in core funding to transition houses and women's centres, for a total of \$17.8 million – the largest increase in two decades
- Budget 2025-26 includes a \$103-million funding commitment across government to address intimate partner violence, including the \$17.8 million in core funding for transition houses and women's centres
- a new inquiry response unit was established to support government's work to respond to recommendations in the Mass Casualty Commission and Desmond Fatality Inquiry final reports



Thank you to all who made the Eastern Shore U7 Timbit Jamboree a success! The community hosted over 700 players—all possible thanks to the many folks who volunteer their time.



International Women's Day event hosted by CBDC Bluewater – Featuring keynote speaker Rebecca Atkinson and plenty of treats from local businesses.



KENT SMITH
MLA, Eastern Shore

EasternShore.MLA@novascotia.ca | 902-989-3772

6321 Hwy 7, Unit 104
Head of Chezzetcook
Office Hours 9:00AM-4:00PM Mon-Fri



*Happy
Easter*

Meet Artist Ed Huner

Eastern Shore Artists and Friends are holding their next event with artist Ed Huner on Wednesday, April 2, 1:00 - 2:00 pm at the Musquodoboit Harbour Library.

Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. A figurative painter, his work has been exhibited across Canada.

After a career teaching in fine arts and art making in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Ed re-established his studio in East Petpeswick in 2010. He holds a BFA ('76) degree from the Nova



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Funds raised by the foundation go towards the care and comfort of residents and patients that are not covered by the province.

A new WINNER is announced on the first TUESDAY of every month.

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Support for Local Mental Health, Addictions Programs

The Government is expanding addiction and mental health funding delivered in communities to 23 organizations across the province. The funding of \$13.8 million through the Mental Health and Addictions Community Wellness Grant program, will cover three years for most organizations.



It was an honor to celebrate and participate in the March 8th International Women's Day Event at Halifax Stanfield International Airport. This year's theme "Accelerate Action" is an urgent call to action.

Pictured: Ann Devine (Ashanti Leadership and Board Chair of Halifax Chamber of Commerce), myself and Joyce Carter (President and CEO, Halifax International Airport Authority).

The first Session of the 65th Annual General Assembly commenced on February 14th with the Speech from The Throne by Lieutenant Governor, Mike Savage. On February 18th, the 2025-2026 Budget was tabled. This budget focuses on: **"Unlocking Our Potential,"** featuring major tax cuts for all Nova Scotians including:

- ✔ An Income Tax Cut
- ✔ HST Cut
- ✔ Small Business Tax Cut
- ✔ Indexing Tax Brackets



The government is supporting Nova Scotian producers by making it easier to buy local products through the Nova Scotia Loyal Producer Labelling Pilot Program. This program lets local businesses apply for a 70 percent rebate on eligible expenses for adding the Nova Scotia Loyal logo to their products.



Every April, hope blooms with the Canadian Cancer Society's (CCS) Daffodil Campaign. This Campaign raises important funds to save lives and improve the quality of life for people impacted by cancer, spreading hope from community to community. Let's help hope bloom.



Big changes are coming to make life more affordable for Nova Scotians! Starting April 1, 2025:

- ✔ Cutting the HST by 1%
- ✔ Increasing the Basic Personnel Exemption from 8,744 to \$11,744
- ✔ Increasing minimum wage to \$15.70 in April, then \$16.70 in October



From Lawrencetown to Port Bickerton (and every family like mine and yours in between)

YOUR ELBOWS IN OTTAWA

CANADA STRONG

Sean FRASER



May Landmark Conference at the Deanery

By Abby Attree

According to the Mi'kmaw Moon cycle, this month is Penatmuiku's, or the "birds laying eggs" moon. I visit the Mi'kmaw Moons project each time I go to write the Deanery's monthly article, which always grants me a necessary moment of reflection. Steeped in wonderment & recognition of whichever seasonal phenomenon the current moon pays tribute to, I often extrapolate these natural phenomena to coincide with personal life events.

In this month's case, what in my life is set to be hatching soon? What have I fought all winter for, to reach the moment I may sow its seed alongside all else that emerges come spring? For me, it's a second chance at a viable garden bed. It's planning the last summer I may spend with many good friends who are soon to flock off to their next chapters of emerging adulthood. Sharing in the anticipation of strawberry picking, camping trips, and late nights of sitting by the ocean to talk about where we'll be in 10 years.

I am an emerging adult, as are the plans I am making, as are the experiences I hope to have, as are the friends I have yet to meet, as is this season, as are the baby birds emerging from their shells.

The Deanery has been nursing something of its own, a precious yet resilient golden egg – Natural Building EAST 2025. The long awaited successor to Natural Building EAST 2019, this ecological design forum is ready to take flight the weekend of May 9th-11th. Designers, builders, planners, researchers, students, and homeowners will be sharing research, skills, and local examples of sustainable design while expanding an inclusive community of practice.

During a time of increasingly unprecedented natural disasters, attendees will explore themes of housing security, disaster preparedness and low-carbon materials, through presentations and panel discussions in the magnificent Palace Yurt as well as hands-on workshops and field trips. Natural Building EAST 2025: On the Shores of Change is a landmark event that aims to set the tone for a new era of builders & doers amidst the tides of change. Learn more at <https://www.TheDeaneryProject.com>.

[Editor's note: Your editor has attended many, many conferences over the years. Natural Building EAST 2019 was by far the most informative of these many conferences.]



Musquodoboit Harbour & District Lions
43 East Petpeswick Road
Musquodoboit Harbour



We are Lions!!! Hear Us ROAR!!
Where there's a need, there's a Lion

This year marks the 10th anniversary of our Lions' Club being a part of the Canadian Diabetes Clothesline Program. Over the years, this project has provided much needed funds for the upkeep of our building. **Donations are very appreciated.** Bins are situated beside the mailboxes at Sobey's, Ralph's Diner in Ship Harbour and between Noor's Restaurant and the Library in Musquodoboit Harbour.

*Items that **can** be resold and are therefore acceptable include: clothing, linens, shoes, small appliances, and toys.*

*Items that **cannot** be resold and should therefore not be dropped at the bins include: children's car seats, cribs, furniture, stereos, televisions, carpets, food, and anything that is seriously soiled.*

Upcoming:

Public Information Session – Saturday April 5th from 1 to 4 PM. Face Painting and Crafts for the children plus beverages and snacks.

Breakfast – Saturday April 26th and May 31st. \$10.00 per person – children under 10 eat free. Ham and sausages, eggs, hashbrowns, pancakes, coffee/tea, juice/milk, and toast. The monthly breakfast is a great opportunity to catch up with folks and support your community.



Lions Cribbage – Thursday evenings 7:00 PM. Must have a partner and a good sense of humor – lots of fun at these weekly events.

Save the Date – Our great Summer Getaway event is on again this year – **Saturday June 21st** – Updates will be forthcoming once the tickets are printed and ready for sale.

Hosting an Upcoming Event, the Lions Club is available for rent (capacity 60). Convenient location, full kitchen facilities and Wifi. (902) 889-2725 or follow us on Facebook.



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Happy Easter



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Thinking of starting a business?

The Self Employment Benefits Program can help!

- You can apply if you meet the following criteria:
- have a current Employment Insurance (EI) claim
- have had an EI claim that ended within the last 60 months
- have received benefits under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) within the previous 60 months
- have been employed with gross insurable earnings of \$2000 or higher annually, in at least 5 of the last 10 years

The Program:

- Supports new business or an existing one in which you had no prior ownership.
- Provides up to 40 weeks of funding to cover living expenses
- Requires you to devote at least 35 hours each week to develop and carry out your business plan. You must also show proof of personal financial investment in the business.

CBDC Blue Water is proud to be the coordinator for the Self Employment Benefits Program.

For further information, contact Sheila Spicer, Self Employment Benefits Coordinator, at 902-827-5564 or toll-free at 1-800-565-2773.
Unit 103, 61 Stella Drive
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Lake Echo and Area Lions

What Happened to the Lake Echo Lions Facebook page?

A few months ago, we created a new Facebook page for the Lake Echo and Area Lions club. This page was meant to share information about our community activities and to encourage more people to join our group or just participate in our activities.

Recently, Facebook decided that we had somehow violated THEIR community standards, and they blocked our page.

We appealed in an effort to find out what we did. They declined the appeal without providing any specific information. We have reviewed their community standards and have no idea how we, as a well recognized, community-based service club have managed to contravene their standards.

To our community: We, the Lake Echo Lions, are still here. We are still working for you. We are helping families in need. We are continuing to hold family friendly events. We are continuing to support worthy causes, small and large. We hope to be back on Facebook soon, so that we can share our work, our events and our contributions to the community with you.

In the meantime, watch this space in the Cooperator for updates. If you have any questions, or would like to join us in supporting the communities of Lake Echo, Mineville and West Porters Lake, please contact Lion Sharon Dykman at (902) 430-4445 or sharon.dykman@gmail.com to find out more.

Happy Easter




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Happy Easter



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HALIFAX

DISTRICT 2 COUNCILLOR'S COMMUNIQUE APRIL 2025 — ISSUE #329 — HAPPY EARTH DAY

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

National Volunteer Week (NVW) pays tribute to the millions of Canadian volunteers who donate their time and energy. This year, NVW is from April 27th - May 3rd and the theme is: "Volunteers Make Waves". To help say 'thank you' to volunteers, Volunteer Canada has developed programs to access resources and products that can be attained through their website: <https://volunteer.ca/> or by Twitter #NVW2025 or Facebook page: @VolunteerCanada. There is plenty of information and ideas on how to foster more volunteerism in our communities. In our area be sure to contact "Volunteer Halifax" at <http://volunteerhalifax.ca/> that links people with local non-profit community organizations, supporting persons with disabilities, new Canadians, corporations and professionals to connect to organizations in and around the municipality, helping individuals develop skills to advance their careers, and developing knowledge resources that support effective and efficient volunteer capacity. Connect with them through email at: info@volunteerhalifax.ca. Each year the Mayor and HRM Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. Our local community hall associations are in desperate need for more volunteers. Due to a publication ban, this year's list of HRM Volunteers is embargoed until mid-April, so a complete list of those honourees from our district will be in my May 2025 newsletter and will also be posted online at: www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering.

CANADA VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Canada's Volunteer Awards (CVA) consists of twenty-one awards, including one national award, the Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement award, and 20 regional awards. The regional awards are distributed across five regions in the following four categories: Community Leader, Emerging Leader, Business Leader, and Social Innovator. It is time to nominate an outstanding individual, a not-for-profit organization, a social enterprise, or a socially responsible business who has made a significant contribution in improving the lives of others in their community through volunteering. Help them get the recognition they deserve. The award recipients will be recognized at an award ceremony and will be given the opportunity to select a not-for-profit organization to receive a grant. They will also participate in a roundtable discussion with fellow recipients and join the vibrant Canada's Volunteer Awards community. The nomination period is officially open and will run until May 8th, 2025.

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/volunteer-awards/nominate.html?utm_campaign=CVA-2025&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=en&utm_content=Nominate-Greyhouse

To learn more about the Canada's Volunteer Awards: visit: www.Canada.ca/volunteer-awards. If you have questions, please contact them via email Info-cva-pbc-gd@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca or call 1-877-825-0434.

ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA NOMINEES

The nomination deadline for the Order of Nova Scotia (ONS) is Friday, April 18th. The ONS recognizes Nova Scotians for outstanding contributions to their

communities. Nova Scotians are encouraged to nominate or re-nominate someone they feel has made a significant contribution. Nomination forms are available at Access Nova Scotia Centres throughout the province. For more information, please contact the NS Protocol Office by phone at 902-424-2467, fax 902-424-4309 or by email at orderofnovascotia@gov.ns.ca. For all details and related information, please visit the ONS website by visiting: <https://novascotia.ca/iga/order.asp>.

CELEBRATE 55th EARTH DAY – APRIL 22nd

It has been 55 years since April 22nd was declared as Earth Day. Back in 1970, it mobilized millions of citizens to lobby for the protection of the planet. The first Earth Day is accredited with launching the modern environmental movement and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event. The campaign theme for 2025: Our Power, Our Planet by inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030. www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/.

MACPASS PASSES AWAY

After 25 years, the use of MACPASS transponders to cross Halifax Harbour Bridges has come to an end. Initially the Province was going to eliminate the tolls on April 1st, but later on they accelerated that termination date to March 17th. And the MACPASS PLUS Parking at the Halifax Airport has also ended. There are more than 200,000 active accounts with a balance. MACPASS staff will begin closing accounts and refunding money to users with links to credit cards. This exercise may take several weeks. Drivers are advised to remove the sticker from their windshield and throw it in the garbage. If you have a hard-shell, place it in your blue bag recycling as it is considered e-waste. It should be noted that the 70th anniversary of the Macdonald (Old) Bridge is on April 2nd.

SHACCCA 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The Sheet Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs (SHACCCA) is a unique organization and supports more than local businesses. Operated exclusively by member volunteers the Civic Affairs aspect of the organization has become a voice for local residents. SHACCCA supports local amenities, activities and events. Their main objective is to facilitate the growth of the economy of the HRM Eastern Shore East region, through ensuring the establishment of the necessary infrastructure for economic and social well-being, while constantly being guided by its membership. They serve to maintain and create an environment that continues to grow the quality of life of the local citizens through a prosperous economy and a social network that meets the needs of all. This year they will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary on Saturday, April 26th at 6 PM in the Lions Centre on Pool Road. Guest Speaker will be HRM Mayor Anny Fillmore. More information can be found on their Facebook page or www.sheetharbour.ca or by email: sheetharbourchamber@gmail.com.

FIRESMART PROGRAM & ASSESSMENT

The FireSmart program helps protect residents, their homes, neighbourhoods, critical infrastructure and vital natural resources from wildfire. This is achieved through seven disciplines that help neighbourhoods address the threat of wildfire: vegetation management, emergency planning, education, legislation,

development, interagency cooperation and cross-training. This is a shared responsibility involving all levels of government and participation from private sectors and neighbours. Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Services (HRFES) will partner with residents and communities in reducing interface fire risk on their properties through this program. Through a voluntary process, residents can register to receive a wildfire risk assessment for their property using the FireSmart standard. Residents will be given a report of their homes and recommendations for reducing the risk of interface fire on their property structures. For more information, check out this info-graphic sheet: www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/about-the-city/energy-environment/intactcentre_3-steps-to-a-cost-effective-firesmart-home_halifax.pdf. To apply for a home assessment, go to: www.halifax.ca/form/hrfe-firesmart.

HRM INTERIM TAX BILL DUE APRIL 30TH

This HRM sends out its tax bills to all property owners twice a year. The Interim bill was mailed mid-March and is due on Wednesday, April 30th. The final bill will be due Friday, October 31st. If you have any enquiries about your tax bill, please call the HRM Contact Centre at 311 or on-line at: www.halifax.ca/home-property/property-taxes.

POTHoles & VEHICLE CLAIMS

If you see or hit a pothole on a HRM street, then report it by calling 311 or using HRM online form at <http://halifax.ca/potholes>. If you have any questions about this form/survey, please call 311 or email: contactus@311.halifax.ca. You can also find answers to common questions, priorities and timelines on the HRM website: www.halifax.ca/transportation/streets-sidewalks/paving-repair/report-a-pothole. To make a claim against the municipality for any vehicle damage, you will need to have called 311 to get a Service Request Reference File Number with your contact information and HRM Risk Management Team will contact you.

If you have incurred damage on a provincial roadway, you may submit a claim to Insurance and Risk Management at the Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, for consideration. Compensation is paid when an investigation finds that the province was negligent in their duties and that negligence resulted in your damage. Submit your claim within 30 days of the incident to ensure that your claim meets the notice requirement. Use SNSIS Claim Form and send evidence to support your claim. https://novascotia.ca/tran/publications/vehicle_property_damage_claim_form.pdf. Submit your claim by Email: risk@novascotia.ca or by Fax: 902-424-2325 or Mail: NS Insurance & Risk Management - PO Box 2205, Halifax, NS B3J 3C4.



Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor-Councillor municipal-Comhairlaiche-Wunaqapeme'
District 2: Lawrencetown-The Lakes-Chezzetcook-Eastern Shore

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A Bit of Railway History

By John Verlinden

The Railway Museum in Musquodoboit Harbour has a rich history. The Dartmouth-Musquodoboit rail line, originally called the Dartmouth and Dean Branch, was completed to Middle Musquodoboit in 1915.



Musquodoboit Harbour Railway Station 1950s

The first train to make the trip on the newly completed line was a 14-car train that took a group of Masons for a short excursion on the July 1 holiday in 1915. By New Year's Day 1916, the line was open to Upper Musquodoboit.

The contractors were Cavicchi and Pagano. To save money, the line had a lot of sharp curves limiting

the speed of the train to 17 miles per hour. They encountered some difficulty above Musquodoboit Harbour as the roadbed kept sliding into the water. However, the issue was eventually remedied and the problem solved.

Passengers for the first year found winter travel rather uncomfortable. Each car had a coal stove at the end which gave inadequate heat. The pumps, which supplied water to produce steam to run the train, were often frozen, resulting in long delays. For the first year or two, there were no water towers and, when pumps were installed at Upper Musquodoboit, Meagher's Grant, and Gaetz Brook, they often froze. The Railway Station in Musquodoboit Harbour was opened in 1918 and housed a full-time Station Master and his

family.

The train, dubbed the Blueberry Express, left Middle Musquodoboit daily at 5:45 a.m., letting passengers off at the Ferry in Dartmouth about 11 a.m.

For the return trip, departure time was 2:45 p.m. On Thursday and Saturday, the train was made up of passenger cars only, but had freight cars on other days as well.

In 1957, diesel engines replaced steam engines on the line. Over time, highways improved, transportation was motorized, and train travel lost its appeal. The last passenger run took place on January 23, 1960.

In 1975, the station, now closed, was handed over to the Board of Trade, which reopened the station as a tourist information centre and museum. By 1980, the train was only making one trip per week, picking up wood chips at Middle Musquodoboit from F. W. Taylor Lumber Co., and limestone from Moshers' in Upper Musquodoboit.

PROM DRESSES

Young ladies, check out Two Tunics, basement of the St. Philip Neri Performance Centre if you are looking for a prom dress. You will find many beautiful dresses to browse through, maybe find just the right dress for the dance!

Well-Being HUB

Mental Wellness Literacy Series Workshop: Anxiety Disorders & How to Help

Wednesday, April 16, 1-2:30pm
Carroll's Corner Community Centre

Tuesday, April 29, 1-2:30pm
SR Balcom Centre in Port Dufferin

Monday, May 12, 1-2:30pm
The Old School Community Gathering Place

Do you have questions about anxiety disorders and are not sure where to go for answers? Are you looking for strategies to help manage your or someone else's anxiety?

Join the Well-Being Hub with facilitator Kirstey Ebanks for an engaging discussion on anxiety disorders with tools and insights on how to help navigate these complex topics. This workshop will focus on creating awareness of the top 3 anxiety disorders affecting Canadians today, practical coping strategies and where to get help.



Free workshop, refreshments will be provided. Registration required.
Please contact 782-409-9007, 1-833-393-2298 ext. 1
or admin@wellbeinghub.ca to register and for more information.

Gaetz Brook Legion Branch 161 Events – Honours and Awards Ceremony

The Annual Honours and Awards Ceremony took place Sunday afternoon, March 16th.

Honourees were presented with Certificates, Pins, and Awards.



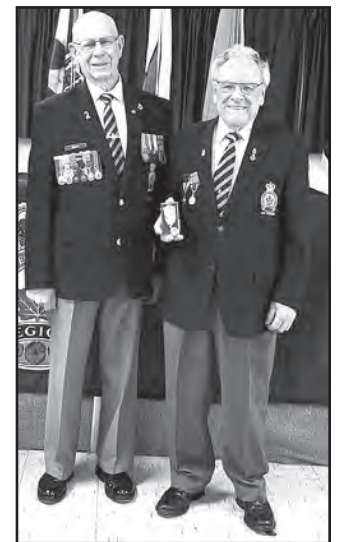
Certificates of Appreciation were presented to (from Left to Right): Andy Day from the Bingo Committee, Sandra Beazley from Public Relations Committee, Susan Peacock from Ways and Means Committee, Debbie Wallace from Entertainment Committee, Bruce Carpenter from Entertainment Committee, Jim Hawkins from Ways and Means.



Dan Ash receives his Life Membership from NS/NU District F Commander Joanne Geddes.



Willa Thompson receives her Life Membership from NS/NU Zone 15 Commander Tom McCormack.



Ron Charlton was presented with his 50 Year Medal from John Gibson.



President Dean Othen presents Dan Ash with Legionnaire of the Year Award. Dan also received the King Charles III Coronation Medal.



Maurice Mury, on the left and John Meehan, on the right were presented with their 30 Year Long Service Lapel badges by Karen Lynch and Ron Charlton.



Donald Whitenect was presented with his 45 Year Long Service Lapel Badge by Karen Lynch and Ron Charlton.



On the left, John Meehan; Center, Eric Lowe who received his 20 Year Pin and Andy Day on the right.



St. Patrick's Dance on Sunday March 16th was a hit!

One N1ght Stand provided the music with 60's Rock 'N Roll and a bit of Irish for the St. Patrick's Day Dance. The dance floor was busy and the evening flew by. Dances are well attended and provide a great evening of fun and entertainment.

Saturday, May 3 and **May 31** are the dates for the next Kitchen Party from 2-4pm with Bruce Carpenter and Friends. A good way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

TGIF provides Friday supper. Different cooks and different meals weekly. Meal costs \$12 with Dessert \$3 extra. Meal starts at 5:00. Tickets can be bought at the bar during open hours and at the door at 4:30.



Lori and Lisa, bar staff, get in on the fun!



Charlie and Grace Whitford sitting with Jimmy Mosher, all dressed up for the event!

NOTE: Friday April 18 CLOSED. TGIF is Thursday April 17. (Pan Fried Haddock)

Karaoke every 2nd Friday night (April 4 & 18) from 6:30-10pm and on alternate Friday nights (April 11 & 26) it's Trivia from 6:30-8:30ish.



Pretty well had non-stop dancing with One N1ght Stand playing on March 16th at St. Patrick's Day dance.

Death on The Ice

By Eric Cole

An assemblage of dark wings drew our attention to the distant commotion. Binoculars revealed a cluster of eagles and crows way out on the frozen bay. It looked like they were fighting and feeding over a carcass. We could make out a ribcage and a darker body mass but it was too far away to tell what it was.

Then as we watched, two coyotes suddenly appeared and were making a beeline across the ice toward the fray. They chased the birds off the carcass and immediately settled down to feed. A back and forth scuffle ensued where a raven or a crow would scoop in for a scrap before being chased off by a coyote. The smaller one was more irritated by the birds and would run around and leap in the air after any that got in too close.

The eagles, generally rulers of the roost around here, waited in the wings beyond the zone of snapping jaws. One of the coyotes was substantially bigger than the other, though both looked in fine condition.

After half an hour or so, something scared the coyotes enough that they took off at a loping gallop back across the ice towards the woods where they had come from. It might have been the big machinery that started working down the road from our place that scared them.

Another storm was due, so we took the opportunity before it blew in to check out the scene ourselves. Sure enough, it turned out to be a deer, but between the sheer ice and the blowing snow there was few tracks or signs to indicate how things had ended here. Judging from the meager amount of flesh left, we

reckoned that it was a couple of nights before when the unfortunate doe was either chased or caught out on the ice by the two coyotes, their paws having better traction than her hooves.

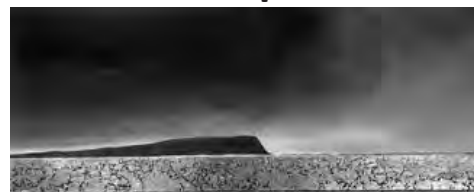
The way we had seen them charge in without any hesitation earlier told us that they were familiar with the scene, probably having owned it for large parts of the previous two nights. With the storm gathering force we decided to retreat towards home, leaving the eagles, ravens, and crows to resume their bickering.

It's a far cry from skinny little Wile E. Coyote chasing the roadrunner in south western deserts to these wolf-like killers of deer in Nova Scotia. Yet here we are, with the largest sub-species of coyote right in our backyards. The Eastern coyote eats everything from donuts to deer, more of the latter in winters like this when other food is scarce and they are easier to catch in deep snow or on the ice as was the case here.

Their expansion, in range and in size, has taken thousands of years as they spread north into the Great Plains then east through Ontario, cross breeding with wolves along the way, the process accelerating in their favour as wolves were being exterminated across their range.

Today, this hybridized but robust version of wolf and coyote, with some domestic dog thrown in, is found right across urban and rural Nova Scotia, the epitome of adaptability, unlike its unfortunate wolf predecessor, the last of which was seen here nearly a hundred and fifty years ago.

To a Landscape Painter Using Gold Leaf



— for Judith Brennan

Now there's gold leaf everywhere: in humble sunsets: tea lights at the horizon, when sun sparks on ice, dazzles open water, opening its mouth to drink gold juice.

Oh, the horizon – is it what it hides that entices? Whispers

of elsewhere, remnants of the light of old, old and older stars.

How it works the liminals, smear at the threshold.

The light: so many entrances, the way, foot path, blue clouds unfold and shower somewhere.

Shorelines are gold ribbons of yellowed grass, gold and white random rocks that hold up the leaden or smouldering sky.

Coastal Voices Open Rehearsal

By Grant Spearman, President, CVMC

Coastal Voices Men's Choir (CVMC) just completed a very successful concert at 1st United Church in MH in conjunction with Musical Friends. There was a full house and it seemed that everyone there enjoyed the afternoon. We hope to do it again. Thanks to all who attended and supported us. It is much appreciated.

CVMC will have their next public event

at the always popular Open Rehearsal at the Old School on Thursday April 3, from 7-9. Besides watching and listening to us rehearse for our upcoming concerts, coffee, tea and dainties will be served during the break to give the audience a chance to mingle with, and meet, the music director and choir members. It's always a fun event and it's nice to see those who come year after year.

Community Earth Week Clean-up & Tree Planting



Sponsor: First United Church
Musquodoboit Harbour



Where: Peace Park, Musquodoboit Harbour
When: Saturday, April 26, 10am - noon
refreshments will follow at First United

Rain Date: Sunday, April 27 at 12:30pm
Unable to offer refreshment time on this date

2026-2030

Strategic Plan

Read the draft plan and share your thoughts about whether it:

- reflects the most pressing issues facing the municipality;
- prioritizes what is most important for Regional Council and the organization to focus on over the next four years; and,
- is inclusive of the entire region.

Your feedback will help chart the course for how the municipality will achieve its goals over the next four years. Once all feedback has been considered, the final plan will be presented to Regional Council in summer 2025.

Share your feedback by April 23 at
shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/municipal-strategic-plan



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Facebook: Chezzetcook & District Lions Club

Thank you to all who supported the lions club in 2024.

Regular Activities	Description
Bingo	Every Monday night, doors open 5:30pm
45 Card Game Building Jackpot	Every Thursday night, 7pm. Contact Lion Dora 902.827.3552 Doors open at 6:30pm
Monthly Meetings	1st & 3rd Tuesday. New members welcome.

The **Sociable Cupcakes** of the Chezzetcook and District Lions Club will have an Easter themed bake sale on Monday, April 14, 6PM. Come join us for bingo following the bake sale.

Sunday Flea Market every Sunday, 10AM-2PM. Contact Wayne at 782.824.4249 for table rentals and additional details.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:


May 3, 2-4pm, Mothers Day Tea & Sale. There will be a variety of sandwiches and sweets. Donation jar at door, 50/50 Draw, Tickets on an afghan. Contact Lion Dora for additional information at email, doraccrawford@hotmail.com or 902 827 3552.

June 14, 2PM, Annual Fathers Day Lobster Card Game. Bring your partner. Admission \$20.00 per team. Per Team Prizes: 1st place, 8 lobsters; 2nd place, 6 lobsters; 3rd place, 4 lobsters. Contact Lion Dora at 902 827 3552.

Contact **David Crawford** for hall rentals at 902.827.3552 or by cellphone 902.221.7983.

We continue to collect **pull tabs** off cans and **eyeglasses**. Drop off during any open event.

Always here to serve the Chezzetcook and District Area.



St Barbara

Student Designs Future of Closed Gold Mine

Congratulations to Megan McCurdy from Musquodoboit Rural High School!

St Barbara (Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia) is proud to announce Megan McCurdy as the winner for their competition to design a community space at Touquoy's lookout area.

Megan's design is part of St Barbara's reclamation process at the closed Touquoy mine in Moose River, to bring the land back to its natural state.

Learn more about St Barbara's reclamation activities and commitment to responsible mining at stbarbaragold.ca.



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