



Municipality of the County of Colchester

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September 2018

Volume 23 Issue 3

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients

Through the Municipality's Scholarship Program, scholarships are awarded annually to high school students residing in Colchester County who are planning to further their educations. Scholarships are awarded to students who are enrolled in Bachelor or Trade Programs.



For the 2017-2018 school year, the following students received scholarships: Colton Graham and Matthew Stevens from South Colchester Academy; Hannah Nicholson and Josh Simm from North Colchester High School; Anna Fullerton, Benjamin Donkin and Noah Patriquin from Cobequid Educational Centre; and Paola Castro from École acadienne de Truro.

From the Mayor's Desk

In Memory of the late Elsie M. Robinson DeBay (1964-2018)

It was with heavy hearts and a great sense of loss, that your County Councillors left a budget meeting on April 23rd after learning Elsie M. Robinson DeBay, the Animal Control Officer for the Municipality of the County of Colchester, had lost her life in a car accident late that afternoon. To say this was a huge shock would not begin to address how Council and staff present felt that evening.

Elsie was an employee of the Municipality for 14 years. She was a person who went way beyond the call in her job rescuing, fostering, helping with adoption, and doing whatever was needed for the animals that came under her care and her jurisdiction.

As a Bylaw Officer, which gave her special constable status, she was held in high esteem by fellow officers. The Atlantic Bylaw Officers Association (ABOA) honoured Elsie at their Annual Conference in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland & Labrador, on June 20th. I am told this annual event was one Elsie helped organize, believed in strongly, loved the camaraderie and the opportunities to learn. The ABOA honoured Elsie and dedicated a new award in her name. I quote, "Going forward the award in Elsie's name will be given out each year to a member who demonstrates extraordinary betterment of their community either through an exceptional act of kindness, involvement in their home community or through volunteer work.

Elsie was generous, fearless, stubborn, fiery, compassionate, loving. The Municipality of Colchester County, ABOA and the rescue world has lost a legendary figure but her legacy will live on. Elsie did not leave something behind FOR us; she left behind something IN all of us." End of quote.

Our Council and Staff continue to mourn Elsie's loss. Our sincere condolences to Elsie's

Debert Water Utility - New Payment Option
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husband, Kirk, her family, friends and neighbours.

Animal Control: Where do we go from here?

Animal Control has long been a service provided by Colchester. That will continue. From 2004 to 2018, the late Elsie Robinson-Debay dedicated herself to this important work. While Elsie always put the welfare of animals before her own, management was also concerned about her wellbeing. Animal Control was as much a lifestyle as it was a job for Elsie. Staff had many conversations with Elsie to figure out the best way to serve our 'four-legged' clients while placing more reasonable demands on her and maintaining a reasonable cost for the service. She acknowledged there were challenges with the system and, with considerable thought and analysis, was open to changes that maintained the highest level of care.

These conversations are not lost with Elsie's passing. They will guide the Municipality's Animal Control program into the future. There are many components to animal control including returning lost dogs, responding to complaints, operating a kennel, fostering and adoption. There are many options for how to provide these services and each municipality has its own approach. This Fall, staff and Council will review options on how to develop these components of animal control to provide a program that has the best interests of the community, our pets, and our animal control staff in mind.

Doctor Recruitment and Retention

Discussions with Dr. Ryan Sommers, NS Health Authority, and Dr. Stephen Ellis, President, Medical Staff Association, has led to the formation of a focus group for physician recruitment and retention and how Councils from Colchester, Truro, Stewiacke and Millbrook First Nation can assist in bringing doctors to this area.

This is not an easy task, but our Council identified it as a crucial one. What can we do as your municipal Council to help the Health Authority and the medical profession bring more doctors here?

The first thing we need to do is initiate the development of a community physician recruitment plan for our area. After two meetings, that's what we are working on. Whatever steps we take in that regard, they need to be practical and doable. Those of us on the Committee, and possibly some volunteers, can help right away by promoting this community and its assets – schools, universities, recreation facilities, trails, parks, lifestyle, location, what's there for children, what jobs are available for spouses, community tours – to attract potential candidates.

Your Council is prepared to work with the medical profession and to do what it can to bring medical professionals to Colchester County and its communities.

Down Syndrome International Swim Competitions

As residents of Colchester County, you will have read or heard about the Down Syndrome International Swim Competitions held at the RECC July 20-26. What a great event!

There were 200 athletes from 24 Countries represented. There were more Canadian swimmers at this year's competition than in any year previous. We were proud to have local swimmer Matthew Hunter take part, who broke a personal best record at this meet. Congratulations, Matthew!

This is the 9th year of the competition. Old friendships were renewed and many wonderful new friendships were formed. I spoke personally with President Geoff Smedley, Down Syndrome International Swim Organization, and he said this was a wonderful venue with great hospitality and superb organization. Competitors, volunteers and staff are all to be congratulated. Special thanks to the organizing Committee.

And, from an economic spinoff perspective, our hotels and restaurants were busy from the time the participants arrived.

We are very proud to have been a sponsor of yet another successful Truro and Colchester event.

Christine Blair, Mayor

Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: www.colchester.ca

Email: helpline@colchester.ca

Follow us on Twitter @ColchesterWRM

Like us on Facebook – Colchester WRM

Colchester Balefill Facility

188 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Materials Recovery Facility

185 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Reminder: All visitors must report to the scale house prior to unloading materials. The scale house operator can accept cash, a personal cheque, or Interac as payment for disposal. The scale house is **not** equipped with a credit card machine. All loads must be tarped to prevent litter problems. Untarped loads will be subject to a \$20 surcharge.

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be closed on Monday, October 8th for Thanksgiving Day and Monday, November 12th for Remembrance Day.

If your regular collection day for organics, garbage and recyclables falls on a holiday, an alternate collection will take place on the **following Saturday**. Please refer to your waste collection schedule for details. **Material must be curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day.**

Reminder – One Large Item Collection in Colchester County

In Colchester County ONLY, each household can place one large item curbside on their regular collection day for pick up until December 14, 2018. This could include household items such as a couch, chair, table, freezer, etc.

This service means you don't have to wait for your special fall cleanup collection week or worry about missing it!

After December 14, 2018, this service takes a pause during the winter months due to weather and safety concerns but will return again after Spring Cleanup in 2019.



Join Us! Municipality of Colchester
Waste Management Facilities'
FREE Open House Event
Saturday September 29th 10am - 2pm
185 Mingo Road, Kemptown, NS
Enjoy a FREE Day Packed with Fun for the Entire Family!

- BBQ, Refreshments & Cake
- Guided Facility Tours ♿ (Balefill, Compost & Recycling)
- Touch-a-Truck - Bring your Camera!
- Games, Bouncy Houses
- Door Prizes
- And much, much more!

COLCHESTER
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
902.895.4777 www.colchester.ca @ColchesterWRM

Recycle your Confidential Documents Securely & Responsibly!

FREE Community Paper Shredding Event!

Saturday September 22nd, 9:00am—12:00pm
Rath Eastlink Community Centre Parking Lot
625 Abenaki Road, Truro



- Open to residents & small businesses in Colchester, Truro & Stewiacke
- 10 file boxes or 5 large bags of paper per person or business
- No plastic sleeves or binders



Helpline 902-895-4777 www.colchester.ca @ColchesterWRM

Fall Compost Giveaway October 15th to 20th

The Fall edition of the Compost Giveaway is taking place at the Balefill Facility, 188 Mingo Road in Kemptown, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on weekdays and 8:30 am to 11:30 am on Saturday. Each household is entitled to shovel 100 kgs of compost into three bags. Bags are provided, but remember to bring your own shovel and wear appropriate footwear and gloves. Compost is sold for \$2.00 per bag or \$34.50 per metric tonne (HST included) throughout the year. Please phone the Helpline at 902-895-4777 for more information.

Dumpsters at Businesses Are for Their Use Only



We have received numerous reports from businesses that they are seeing people place garbage bags in the dumpsters that they have rented for their business waste. Please remember that those dumpsters are not for use by the general public and are intended for use by the business that is paying for the rental and disposal fees for the waste it contains. Local businesses, who are also your neighbours, thank you for respecting this and not placing waste in their dumpsters which costs them additional money.

Litter Awareness Program

In June, Colchester Waste Resource Management partnered with members of the Colchester District RCMP to hold Litter Checkpoints at five locations including Stewiacke, Brookfield, Bible Hill, Great Village and Tatamagouche. At the checkpoints, motorists were thanked for not littering and given a brochure with information on the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway program and a small plastic litter bag for their vehicle. We enjoyed speaking with hundreds of motorists at these checkpoints and send a huge 'Thank You' out to our partners at the Colchester District RCMP for their support of this positive community initiative. Together, we can keep Colchester clean!



Safely Dispose of Unwanted Agricultural Pesticides and Livestock/Equine Medications

Farmers can safely dispose of their unwanted or expired agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications at no charge from November 5th to 18th at the following locations, during regular business hours:

Cavendish Agri-Services Ltd. 38 Wade Road, Truro 902-893-6950	Truro Agromart Ltd. 547 Onslow Road, Truro 902-895-2857
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For more information on this disposal service, please visit the Clean Farms website at:

<http://cleanfarms.ca/programs/obsolete-pesticide-livestock-medication/when-where/nova-scotia/>

Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates to Remember

Location:

Clean Harbors, 640 MacElmon Road,
Debert, Exit 13, Highway 104

Remaining 2018 Dates of Operation:

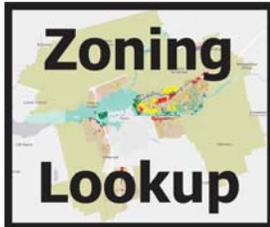
October 13th
November 3rd

Hours of Operation:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

This FREE service is for residents of the Municipality of Colchester and the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke.

Community Development



Wondering about the zoning of your property? Check out the new interactive zoning lookup map on our website at <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/510215b0a4384cbfaf901dac8b25347a>

This map is a graphical representation and any questions should be directed to our Community Development Office at 902-897-3170.

Recreation



Like **Colchester County Recreation** on Facebook and follow **@MunColRec** on Twitter for more information about our upcoming programs!



Autumn Trail Adventures

Fall is a fantastic time of year to explore your favourite trail. The season brings cooler temperatures, fewer biting insects, and vibrant forest colors. To plan a trail adventure, visit www.colchester.ca/trails for information about walking, hiking and cycling trails in Colchester County.



Cobequid Trail, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

Municipal Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

Upcoming application deadlines:

Funding for Insurance for Non-Profit Groups – October 26, 2018

Community Trail Funding Program – January 25, 2019

Grants to Non-Profit Organizations – February 1, 2019

Community Park Funding Program – February 22, 2019

Please visit www.colchester.ca/rec-grants for program details and application forms.



Improvements and amenities at the Fundy Discovery Site continue to grow during the 2018 tourism season. A newly branded highway sign now properly marks the site and a new public washroom facility opened in late July. Landscaping and the installation of walkways will also continue into the fall. Planning is well underway for additional elements including a dyke trail, interpretive signage and an outdoor amphitheater.

A notable element of the initial phase of the Fundy Discovery Site masterplan is the construction of an impressive natural playground which started in July. We are excited to share the concept **below**. Inspired by the natural wonder of the Bay of Fundy, many of the playground elements are intended to represent features in the landscapes of the Bay of Fundy region. This unique space will provide a variety of play experiences sure to delight children...and the young at heart!



Municipal Regional Parks



This ship sails no matter the weather at Five Islands Lighthouse Park.

Fall is a wonderful time for outdoor activities. Plan your visit today to one of our three municipal regional parks which feature picnic facilities, walking paths, playgrounds, and river or ocean views. Sail away on the ship playground at Five Islands Lighthouse Park, bicycle on the Butter Trail through Nelson Memorial Park as you enjoy views of Tatamagouche Bay, or enjoy the fall colours while picnicking or walking along the trails in Stewiacke River Park.

The regional parks are serviced until October 8, 2018 and will re-open on May 11, 2019, although the public is welcome to use the parks for walking and snowshoeing during the off-season. For more information and directions, please visit www.colchester.ca/parks or phone 902-897-3180.

Picnic shelters at the regional parks may be reserved free of charge for family or group events. For reservation inquiries, please contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3180 or use the online reservation form at <http://www.colchester.ca/park-reservation-form>.



A lovely gathering space at Stewiacke River Park



Fall colours at Nelson Memorial Park

Grand Slam of Curling

The Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling is coming back to Truro during the 2018-2019 season!

The Rath Eastlink Community Centre will once again host the Masters, the first major of the year, running from October 23rd to October 28th and featuring 15 of the top men's teams and 15 of the top women's teams in the world.

Event passes are now available; visit www.ticketpro.ca or call 1-888-311-9090 to purchase yours today!



**GRAND SLAM
OF CURLING**



Babes on Blades

Hey ladies, have you ever wanted to learn to play hockey? Here's your chance: Babes on Blades is back for another year. This "learn to" hockey program is designed to teach the basics of hockey to women with little or no experience. The program reviews skating skills, basic rules, shooting/passing and game fundamentals.

For more details contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited!

Calling all Artists! Art Acquisition and Show in November

Local artists are invited to participate in the Municipality's Annual Art Acquisition Program this Fall. Artists must apply to participate and can submit up to three pieces of work. The various works of art will be featured in an art show, proudly hosted each year by the Municipality of Colchester (time and location to be announced). During the show, a work of art is selected by a Committee and added to the permanent public display on the main floor of the County of Colchester Courthouse. The selection is based on quality of the art, the historic development and lifestyle of Colchester County, and the medium used. For more information about the Art Acquisition Program, go to www.colchester.ca/art-acquisition or contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Trailblazers After School Programs



Colchester's Trailblazers After School Programs will take place again for six weeks this fall. Programs take place at Central Colchester Junior High, Hilden Elementary, Brookfield Elementary, and Tatamagouche Regional Academy for students 10-14 years of age. Information will be distributed to students at their respective schools. The Municipality of Colchester will be seeking enthusiastic, youth-focused leaders for each program. For further information regarding Trailblazers and program leader opportunities contact 902-843-4186 to speak to the Regional Coordinator - Colchester East Hants After School Program, or email us at recreation@colchester.ca

Public Works

Protecting our Watersheds

The Municipality operates two water utilities – one in Tatamagouche and one in Debert. In Tatamagouche, water from the French River is treated and distributed to residents, while the Debert system uses groundwater. The areas from which we draw water are called 'watersheds'. Each Utility has its own Source Water Protection Committee which helps to monitor activities in the watershed areas. The Committees are formed of members of Council, staff, citizens, community groups, and Nova Scotia Environment. They prepare watershed protection plans, carry out regular monitoring, and review information on water quality.

Things that could impact the quality of water include:

- Fuel or chemical spills
- Sewage spills
- Road salt
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Pesticides
- Abandoned wells

If you live or work within a watershed area, you can be our eyes and ears on the ground. We need help from the public to make sure our water is protected. Spread the word and help keep our watersheds clean!

To find out if you live in the Debert or Tatamagouche watershed areas, please visit our website at www.colchester.ca/water-utilities.

Flood Advisory Committee

The Colchester County Flood Advisory Committee has been in place since the mid-1990's, and its members include the Mayor, three Councillors, and 2 citizen representatives. Provincial representatives from Nova Scotia Environment and Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal also attend the meetings. The main goals of the Committee are to receive and review applications from County property owners for repairs on flood-damaged properties, to assist owners with carrying out repairs and to look at ways to reduce flood damage within the County. Over the last three years, the Committee has completed 16 flood damage repair projects across the County with a total value of \$200,000. This year the Committee plans to carry out another 8 projects valued at \$50,000. The before and after photos included below show how these projects help to protect buildings and roads from the effects of flooding. If you would like more information regarding the flood program, please contact the Public Works Office at 902-897-3175.

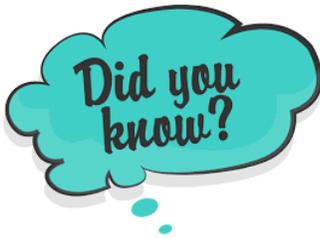


Valley Road/Black Rock Site



Residential Property, Economy





Debert Water Utility

Did you know? If you bank with RBC you can now pay your **Debert Water Utility** bill through online banking. The payee name is "Debert Water Utility".

Lyme Disease Prevention

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans by a bite from an infected blacklegged tick. In Nova Scotia, only the blacklegged tick carries the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, and not all blacklegged ticks carry the bacteria.

Ticks attach to the skin and feed on blood. A tick carrying the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease can only transmit it after filling itself with blood, which takes at least 24-36 hours.

Blacklegged ticks can be found throughout Nova Scotia and survive best in areas that provide a moist habitat, such as wooded or forested areas.

How can I protect myself from Lyme disease?

There are several ways to prevent or reduce contact with ticks when in areas with long grass, shrubs or woods:

- Apply insect repellents containing DEET or Icaridin to exposed skin and clothes. Follow directions on the package carefully.
- Wear light colored, long sleeved shirts and pants, closed shoes, and tuck pant legs into socks.
- Walk on well-traveled paths, avoiding high grass and vegetation.
- Check yourself, children and pets after walking in grassy or wooded areas. Check clothing and inspect skin including in and around ears, arm pits, inside belly button, groin, around the waist and especially in hair and scalp area.
- When possible, take a bath or shower within two hours of being outdoors. This makes it easier to find ticks and washes away loose ones.
- Remove ticks as soon as they are found. Carefully grasp ticks with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull the tick straight out. Clean and disinfect the area where the tick was attached to the skin.
- Keep lawns mowed short.
- Put playground equipment in sunny, dry places, away from wooded areas, yard edges and trees.

Disposal of Ticks:

Once removed, flush ticks down the toilet, drown them in rubbing alcohol or freeze them in a sealed plastic bag before putting them in the garbage. Avoid crushing a tick with exposed fingers.

What should I do if I think I have Lyme disease?

If you have been in a grassy or wooded area and have symptoms such as fever, fatigue, muscle aches and headaches and/or a rash (particularly a bulls-eye shaped rash), you should seek prompt medical attention.

Could Emergency Responders Find Your Residence or Business?

When it comes to emergency response, it is important to have your civic number **clearly** and **correctly** posted. Your civic number is the main physical feature used by responders when locating the source of a 911 call. Seconds can mean the difference between life and death in an emergency. Getting resources where they are needed as quickly as possible is vital, especially when dealing with 911 emergencies.

Without a clearly posted civic number to guide emergency responders, they can sometimes have difficulty locating the address of a 911 emergency.



Where? Civic numbers should be posted in front of your home or business, at the end of your driveway, visible to both directions of traffic. Your civic number should not be on your mailbox if it is located across the road from your driveway. Emergency vehicles look for even numbers on one side of the road and odd on the other side of the road.

Why? Having the correct civic number posted clearly at the end of your driveway allows for emergency responders to avoid confusion and reach their destination in the shortest amount of time. Emergency response time can make a difference in urgent situations. Not displaying your civic number or posting the wrong civic number can put you and your neighbours at risk of a delayed response time from emergency responders or worse, the responders not being able to find where they are needed at all.

A few simple tips to keep in mind:

- Civic numbers should be displayed horizontally.
- Civic numbers should be in Arabic numerals (12 not XII or Twelve)
- There should be at least 48 inches between the bottom of the numbers and the ground.
- The sign should be easily visible at night.
- The colour of the numbers should clearly contrast the background. White numbers on a blue background work best. Reflective numbers are recommended.

Where can I get a sign with my civic number on it? Check with your local fire department or contact the Municipality's Property Information Department at 902-897-3178.

Do I need a civic number on my camp or cottage? In most cases yes, but please call us at 902-897-3178 and we can speak to you about your specific situation.

When will a civic number be issued for a new building? Civic numbers are generated during the building permit process and a letter is sent by mail stating the civic number assigned to the building. Please note that building lots are commonly assigned a lot number when land is subdivided, but this number is **not** the civic number.

Not sure of your civic number?

If you have any questions or require more information, please phone the Municipality's Property Information Department at 902-897-3178.

Vacant Lots

Typically, civic numbers are not assigned to vacant lots. If you feel that a civic number is required on a vacant lot, please contact the Municipality's Property Information Department at 902-897-3178.



Municipality of the County of Colchester

1 Church Street
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 3Z5

www.colchester.ca

Toll Free Number
1-866-728-5144

Reception - 897-3160, 897-3150,
897-3175

Administration
Tax Office
Public Works

Community Development - 897-3170
Building Inspection
Development Officer
Animal Control
Planning

Property Information - 897-3178

Colchester Recreation - 897-3185
recreation@colchester.ca

Materials Recovery Facility and
Regional Balefill Facility - 897-0450

Waste & Recycling Helpline - 895-4777
helpline@colchester.ca

Fax Numbers

Courthouse Building

Administration - 843-4066

Community Development - 843-4061

Finance / Tax Office - 843-4067

Human Resources - 843-4063

Information Services - 843-4068

Property Information - 843-4062

Engineering / Public Works - 843-4064

Recreation Services - 843-4065

External Locations

Regional Sewage
Treatment Plant - 897-0335

Public Works Building - 895-5251

Water Utilities - 641-3102

Materials Recovery Facility/
Waste Reduction - 897-0453

Regional Balefill Facility - 895-2307

Municipality of the County of Colchester

Tax Office

Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2018/2019 property tax bills were due on August 31, 2018. Any outstanding balances are accruing interest at 15% per annum.

There are many options for you to pay your property taxes. Payments can be made at the Tax Office (cash, cheque and debit only) at 1 Church St, Truro; at most financial institutions; as well as by telebanking or internet banking. If you are making your payment by telebanking or internet banking, please make sure you use the **assessment account number** as your account number.

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

Tax Sale

The tax sale list will be made available on October 13, 2018 with the proposed tax sale date being November 20, 2018. Check local papers and our website at www.colchester.ca/tax-sales for the list and updated information as it becomes available.

Designation of the Elizabeth Bishop House in Great Village as a Municipal Heritage Property

The Elizabeth Bishop House and land, (also known as the Bulmer House), located at 8740 Highway 2, Great Village, were registered as a Municipal Heritage Property in Colchester County on June 14, 2018 by County Council. Elizabeth Bishop was a Pulitzer Prize winning American poet and short story writer whose grandparents owned this house. It became the center of her universe as a child and in later life she wrote about this house and the Great

Village landscape. This property is proudly owned and maintained by the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society. Check out their Facebook page for ongoing activities.



Mayor Christine Blair and Society member Laurie Gunn participated in the plaque unveiling for the Elizabeth Bishop House, held on June 23rd in Great Village.



Elizabeth Bishop House