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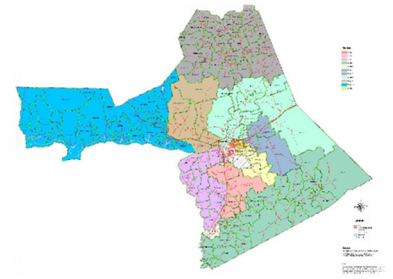
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May 2022

Volume 27 Issue 2

2022 Municipal Boundary Review

Every eight years, municipalities across the province are required to do a boundary review to confirm that their districts are the right size and have the right number of Councillors to effectively represent the number of constituents within.



In addition to comparing ourselves with other municipalities, reviewing cost-effectiveness, and consulting with Council, part of the review process will involve a public survey.

In Colchester, we currently have 11 Councillors representing 11 Districts and a Mayor representing the Municipality at large. Is this enough? Too many? Or just right? Watch for the Municipal Boundary Survey coming later this year where you will have the opportunity to have your say.

For more information contact Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer at 902-897-3182 or dtrefry@colchester.ca.



Photo credit: Steve Currie

International Firefighters Day

With May 4, 2022 having been International Firefighters Day, the Municipality of Colchester would like to acknowledge all the firefighters who serve their communities throughout the year. The people that serve as firefighters in our municipality are highly motivated, dedicated and well-trained

volunteers who respond to fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents and any other emergency that jeopardizes people or property.

All local fire and emergency services are actively seeking people to join their organizations, so if you're interested, reach out to your fire department or contact the Municipality's Protective Services Department at 902-893-8511 and they can direct you to a contact at your local fire service.

From the Mayor's Desk

Colchester's Operating Budget

Once again, I am proud to acknowledge that we have successfully approved our 2022-23 operating budget with **no increases** to the residential or commercial tax rates. This is the fourth year of the last five that we have been able to hold the line on our rates, with just a half cent increase back in 2019.

In addition to the rising cost of living that we all are facing, our Municipality has many expenses that are beyond our control such as education, libraries, corrections, and most notably policing, which increased 11.04% this year. These costs are determined and charged to us by the Province and make up over 44% of our budget. Despite these challenges, Council does its best to avoid unnecessary increases to our tax rates.

Our Municipality prides itself on delivering a high level of service to residents while maintaining one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the province. Calculated spending, investment in contingency reserve funds, and long-term forecasting have all contributed to our stable financial position. Council has continued to invest in critical infrastructure and economic initiatives that will propel our County forward, including rural broadband internet, Debert Business Park and Airport, Fundy Discovery Site and the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, to name a few.

Funding to support the repaving of deteriorating, provincially owned J-Class roads (subdivision roads built prior to 1995) in the County was once again not included in this year's budget. Despite generating significant debate, most of Council were opposed to paying to help fix roads not owned by the Municipality, holding firm to the point that roads owned by the Province should be the sole responsibility of the Province. Residents with concerns relating to J-Class roads are encouraged to contact their local MLAs or the NS Department of Public Works Operation Contact Centre at 1-844-696-7737 or tir-occ@novascotia.ca.

With an emissions target of net zero by 2050, the Municipality is leading environmental change by investing in our Carbon-Free Colchester Plan and initiatives like Solar Colchester and Cozy Colchester.

I am particularly pleased our Council has been able to support our hardworking community groups that provide important services and facilities across our Municipality through the County's not-for-profit grant programs. It will help them rebuild and revitalize following the challenges of the past two years.

I am optimistic about Colchester's future, proud of our Council and the budget we have approved, as we continue to lead Colchester County to a strong and bright future.

April 18 and 19, 2022

These dates marked two years since our communities suffered the worst intended mass casualty in Canadian history. We all have been affected. Most of all, we keep the families, co-workers, first responders, students, neighbours, relatives, and friends of every victim in our hearts and in our prayers.

Colchester County Volunteers

Across Canada during the week of April 24-30, we celebrated our community volunteers. This year's theme was "Volunteering is Empathy in Action." Our volunteers in Colchester County are highly valued. We know they create caring, collaborative and compassionate communities and their work is to be celebrated as well as appreciated.

I especially want to thank our local volunteer fire brigades and first responders. Through these last two difficult

years of the pandemic and community trauma, our fire brigade members and first responders have continued to provide us with their support. As much as they were able during the pandemic, they continued their training and responding to emergencies for the safety and well being of our communities. On behalf of all of us, I want to thank them sincerely for all they do, to thank our mutual aid partners who work collaboratively with one another and to the families of firefighters for their support and encouragement.



In addition, our fire brigades are now starting to hold their annual awards banquets. I attended the Bible Hill Fire Brigade's Annual Awards Banquet in April and want to congratulate all the award recipients once again. The photo you see is of Charlie Boyce, a veteran of the Bible Hill Fire Brigade, having joined in 1953. Charlie was honoured as an active honorary member of the Brigade, not only with an award, but with a standing ovation.

In Closing

My sincere congratulations to Sylvia McMillan, Central Onslow on the occasion of her 103rd birthday, April 10th; to Carl and Evelyn Angevine, Bible Hill, on the occasion of their 75th anniversary, March 29th; and to Harold Barkhouse, Salmon River, on the occasion of his 85th birthday, April 13th. Our Councillors wish you and all those of you in the County who are celebrating special events, our very best wishes.

Stay safe. Enjoy the springtime.

My regards to all,

Christine Blair, Mayor

Upcoming Commemorations & Observances

Sharing in traditions and celebrating differences is an important part of building strong, welcoming, and inclusive communities. Here are a few special dates to take note of in the weeks ahead:

June	Pride Month
Sunday, June 19	Father's Day
Tuesday, June 21	National Indigenous People's Day
Friday, July 1	Canada Day
Monday, August 1	Civic Holiday
Monday, August 15	National Acadian Day
Monday, September 5	Labour Day



June is Pride Month in Canada. Early June kicks off the Pride season of events across the country that celebrate our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Two-spirit communities and everyone under the LGBTQ2S+ umbrella. In Nova Scotia, Pride events are often held in July.

Pride embodies the principle of inclusivity which is something that unites us all.

Recreation

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

Dogs on Leash – For Everyone's Safety and Enjoyment



The Municipality has received many complaints recently about dogs running at large. Dogs are considered running at large when they leave their owner's property for any reason and are not under their owner's complete control. Dogs running loose, or not being on a leash during walks, is an offence under Colchester's Dog By-law. You can find a copy of this By-law at www.colchester.ca/animal-control. It is important that owners of dogs understand they are responsible and liable for the actions of their dog at all times. The Dog By-law applies to all dog owners in urban and rural areas of the Municipality and states that dogs are not permitted to run at large. This means that **when off your property, your dog must be on a leash and under your control at all times**. This is important for the safety of your pet, other's pets, you, and people around you. Your dog might be friendly, however, not everyone is comfortable with a dog running up to them, and your dog might react to other dogs, people, or circumstances.

The Municipality has posted signs, like the one above, at some municipal parks and trails as a reminder to dog owners to keep your dog on a leash and pick up after your pet. **Even if no sign is posted, the Dog By-law still applies.** Dog owners, please do your part to ensure enjoyable public spaces, for the benefit of all park visitors and trail users.

Colchester County Trails...Pathways to Active Adventures

Adventures await on the terrific trails in Colchester County. With more than 150 km of walking and cycling trails to explore, our County has something for everyone.

Walk to your heart's content along the seacoast. Hike to waterfalls in the hills. Run like the wind through the park. Bike where train whistles used to blow. Stroll beside wonderful wetlands. Relax by the brook or the bay.

Explore a new trail this summer! To plan your next trail adventure, visit www.colchester.ca/trails. When enjoying your trail adventures, please stay on designated trails, respect other trail users, and keep your dog on leash. Happy Trails!



Spring hiking on Earltown Lakes and Portage Trail.



The 18th Annual **Cobequid Trail Run** is back
Sunday, August 28th!

Join us on the trail for breathtaking scenery and a fast, flat, and fun run experience. With most restrictions lifted, our onsite venue will be open with full amenities, and we have added our Half Marathon Run back on the roster! The Cobequid Trail Run is featured on www.raceroster.com where you can register to participate in the 5K, 10K, or Half Marathon run. Hope to see you on the trail!

Fun in the Sun Day Camps will be back this year in July and August. Each week is jam-packed with fun outdoor games, group activities, sports, theme days and lots more to keep you active this summer. For more information follow us on Facebook at Colchester County Recreation or visit our website at www.colchester.ca/fun-in-the-sun-day-camps.

Stay tuned for registration dates and camps happening in your area.



Stay tuned for the 16th Annual **Colchester Bike Week** which will be back this June with fun, free events and helpful, safe cycling tips for everyone. Follow us on Facebook at Colchester County Recreation or visit www.colchester.ca/colchester-bike-week for updates.



Upcoming Grant Funding Deadlines

Community Trail Funding Program
June 3, 2022

Community Park Funding Program
September 15, 2022

Not for Profit Insurance Grant Funding
October 28, 2022



Emergency Preparedness: Be Ready for Anything



Natural disasters may be beyond our control, but there are ways to reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face - whether natural or human-induced.

By taking a few simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies – anytime, anywhere. It is important to:

- **Know the risks** – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region can help you better prepare.
- **Make a plan** – It will help you and your family know what to do.
- **Get an emergency kit** – During an emergency, we will all need some basic supplies. We may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

Visit www.colchester.ca/planning-for-an-emergency or www.getprepared.ca for more resources to help you and your family prepare for all types of emergencies.

Our local Emergency Management team encourage you to take actions to be better prepared. Please do your part! Experience has shown that individual preparedness goes a long way to help people cope better - both during and after a major disaster. Get an emergency kit now - it can make a world of difference.

This year, the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to impact Nova Scotians. While governments at all levels are working hard to keep us safe, now, more than ever, we understand that we all have a role to play in emergency preparedness. You can help to protect yourself, and others, against COVID-19 by staying informed. We encourage all residents to visit www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus for the latest information on the response to COVID-19 and more tips on how to continue to help prevent the spread.

Regional Accessibility Plan

In June of 2021, the Municipality of Colchester joined the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke and the Villages of Bible Hill and Tatamagouche to organize a committee that would guide the development of a regional accessibility plan. The Nova Scotia Accessibility Act mandated all municipalities in the province to prepare such a plan by April 1, 2022. The Committee was comprised of seven community members who are disabled or represent disabled groups, as well as one elected representative from each Town, Village and Municipality.

The Committee engaged ReachAbility, a consulting agency specializing in accessibility planning, in October 2021 to assist in the plan preparation. Significant public engagement efforts were made between December and March through public and organizational surveys, stakeholder interviews, outreach events at the Truro Library and Truro Mall, as well as several presentations and public building audits. The resulting Plan is ambitious and reflects the sentiments, issues and aspirations of everyone who participated in this process. The Committee will continue its work to oversee the implementation of the Plan's recommendations and advise Councils and Commission members accordingly. A copy of the document can be found on the Municipality's website at www.colchester.ca.

Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: www.colchester.ca

Twitter: @ColchesterWRM

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 Scalehouse prior to unloading materials. The Scalehouse operator can accept cash, a personal cheque, or Interac as payment for disposal. The Scalehouse 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.

AFTER HOURS DUMPING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. As per Chapter 33, Solid Waste By-law; no person shall place, cause to be placed, or permit to be placed, any solid waste at or adjacent to a municipal solid waste management facility when the facility is not open. This violation comes with a penalty of up to \$5,000.

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be **closed** on Monday, May 23rd for Victoria Day; Friday, July 1st for Canada Day; Monday, August 1st for the Civic Holiday and Monday, September 5th for Labour Day.

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY COLLECTION CHANGE NOTICE

Residents whose normal collection was scheduled for Friday, July 1st Canada Day – Due to the Holiday, your collection will take place on Monday, July 4th. Please refer to your waste collection schedule for details or download our FREE Colchester Waste app. Material must be curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day.

Stay Up to Date on Collection Changes When They Affect You

Make sure you are signed up for our service alert and reminder service! Check it out on our website at <http://www.colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling>. Enter your civic address and your customized calendar can be printed, synchronized with your own electronic calendar, and you can receive weekly reminders by phone, email or Twitter. Once signed up, we can instantly contact you when changes occur to collection in your area due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances.

Smart Phone or Tablet user? Download our Colchester Waste Resource Management app for free on Apple and Android devices.

Don't have a computer, printer, or smartphone? No Problem! Call us at 902-895-4777 and we will be happy to mail you out a customized calendar and set this service up for you.



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal – Dates to Remember

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

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.

2022 Dates of Operation: Saturday

June 4 th	September 10 th
July 9 th	October 1 st
August 6 th	November 5 th

Mark your Calendars! 2022 Mobile Household Hazardous Waste & Paper Shredding Events

Saturday, June 11th – Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event

Stewiacke Fire Hall, 111 Highway 2, Stewiacke - Hours of Operation - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, June 11th – Paper Shredding Event

Stewiacke Fire Hall, 111 Highway 2, Stewiacke - Hours of Operation - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, June 25th – Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event

North Shore Recreation Arena, 30 Blair Avenue, Tatamagouche, Hours of Operation - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, September 17th – Paper Shredding Event

Rath Eastlink Community Centre, 625 Abenaki Road, Truro - Hours of Operation - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

All participants are to remain in their vehicles when participating at these events. Staff will safely unload your materials.



Spring Gardening

Our free Compost Giveaway program finished up on May 7th, but did you know that you can purchase our Grade A Compost all year long? It can be purchased for \$2 per bag or in bulk for \$35/Metric Tonne. If buying by the bag, you will need to bring your own shovel and gloves, we provide the bags.

Bulky Items Collected Curbside

Every garbage collection day, each household is permitted two large bulky items such as a piece of furniture or appliance etc. Small household appliances can be placed in a clear bag for collection. Tires and auto parts are not part of the bulky item collection program. Please check out our website at www.colchestser.ca or call our Helpline 902-895-4777 for more information

Litter

Thank you to all the residents that participated in the Colchester Clean – Anti Litter Campaign. Everyone pitching in helps our communities look great and feel safer.

If you missed our program, you can register your clean-up with the [Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up](#). They will provide you with documents to help you plan your event: a copy of the Pick-Me-Up handbook, and a poster that you can use to help promote your event. There is also a data card which should be completed after the clean-up to document all the material. This data is very important for the continuation of the program.

Roadside Safety

- Please do not leave any items that are not intended for curbside collection near the roadside. If you are using an item to secure your bags such as crowbars, weights etc., please label that they are not garbage. If your barrel, plastic totes, or wheelbarrow are to be used for storage, please label that they are not garbage. Please ensure that any tools, lawn furniture, toys or bicycles that are not intended to be garbage are clearly stored away from the area on collection day.
- This time of year is a busy time for our farmers as they are moving large pieces of equipment on our rural highways to access their properties. We would like to ask our residents to safely pull the green carts back off the roadside when not being collected and to take care when passing agricultural equipment. This will assist our farmers to safely navigate to their fields and the green carts and storage bins will be not damaged.
- As a precaution, when placing a large window or a glass item at the curb, please package it safely. We want to ensure that you and the collector will be safe from any breakage and potential sharp edges. You can wrap them in cardboard, paper, textiles or secure with duct tape.
- Reminder to use blue bags when placing recyclables curbside. When all materials are placed curbside on the same day – recycling, garbage, and organics – the color of the bags help the collector to quickly and safely identify which truck needs to pick the material up.
- Pressurized compressed gas cylinders and tanks such as propane, are not permitted in your curbside collection program. These cylinders can cause great damage and harm to the collection vehicles and the processing equipment at our facilities. Please dispose of them properly at one of the household hazardous waste disposal events.

Sharps Safety

The Materials Recovery Facility is continuing to find needles and lancets in the recycling. It is very important that residents dispose of these items properly. Never place them in the recycling or garbage. Please ask your local pharmacy for a “safe sharps” disposal container. These can be brought back to the pharmacy when full.



Do I Need a Permit for That?

Both the County and the Province are responsible for approving and issuing permits related to sewage/waste disposal, water, driveways, filling in ditches and construction/building. Refer to the table below to determine what permits are required and who you need to contact to obtain a permit.

PERMIT CATEGORY	PERMIT TYPE	PERMIT DESCRIPTION	PERMIT FEE	ISSUED BY:
Sewage/ Waste Disposal	Municipal Sewer	Connection to municipal sewer system	\$150 *Additional \$3,500 if no lateral exists	Public Works (County) (902) 897-3175
	Septic System	Installation of an onsite private septic system as municipal sewer is unavailable	*Contact NSE for more information	Nova Scotia Environment (Province) (902) 893-5880
Water Systems	Municipal Water	Connection to municipal water system in Debert and Tatamagouche	\$150 – Debert \$160 – Tatamagouche *Additional \$5,500 if no lateral exists	Public Works (County) (902) 897-3175 engineer@colchester.ca
	Private Well	Installation of a private well water system	*Contact NSE for more information	Nova Scotia Environment (Province) (902) 893-5880
Driveway Access	Municipal Road	Installation of a driveway on a County Owned Road (blue sign)	No fee	Public Works (County) (902) 897-3175 engineer@colchester.ca
	Provincial Road	Installation of a driveway on a Provincially Owned Road (green sign)	*Contact NSPW for more information	Nova Scotia Public Works (Province) 1-844-696-7737
Filling in Ditches	Municipal Road	Fill in the ditch of a County Owned Road (blue signs) with a buried culvert	No fee	Public Works (County) (902) 897-3175 engineer@colchester.ca
	Provincial Road	Fill in the ditch of a Provincially Owned Road (green signs) with a buried culvert	*Contact NSPW for more information	Nova Scotia Public Works (Province) 1-844-696-7737
Building, Construction, Development	Development	Required for any type of construction in zoned areas including fences, pools and signs	No fee	Community Development (County) (902) 897-3170 comdev@colchester.ca
	Building	Construction, demolition, relocation, or renovations to existing structure/ dwelling	*Various fees – contact County Office for more information	Community Development (County) (902) 897-3170 comdev@colchester.ca

Community Energy & Emissions Plan

Launch Party Video Submissions

We're throwing a launch party for the Carbon-Free Colchester Community Energy & Emissions Plan! Colchester is working toward a green future with no carbon emissions and we want to celebrate with you. Join us for a combined in-person/virtual event in June to learn about our vision for Colchester's future, share your ideas, and win prizes.

This is where you come in!

We would like to feature the inspiring minds of youth in Colchester and are welcoming video submissions of young people in your life to share their interesting responses to one or more of the following questions:

Questions for children (toddlers included):

- What does it mean to have a healthy planet?
- How do we keep our planet clean?
- What is something that would be bad for our planet?
- What do you like most about nature?

Questions for teens:

- Why is it important for a community to come together to combat climate change?
- What are some small lifestyle changes that someone can make that will help our environment?
- What are your hopes for the future regarding climate action?
- Is it important to you to work for a company that is environmentally friendly? Why?

You can email videos to Sarah Lynds at slynds@colchester.ca by June 1st. Don't forget to include their first name and age! Your submission of a video will indicate acknowledgment and approval for the video to be shared publicly for the Launch Party event and on the Municipality's social media platforms.

To receive updates about the date/time and how to attend the launch party, follow us on Instagram (@CarbonFreeColchester), join our email list (email carbonfree@colchester.ca to sign up), or visit www.colchester.ca/carbon-free.



The Municipality of Colchester is offering 0% interest loans to homeowners for home efficiency upgrades, including heat pumps, solar panels, insulation, and more. You can use the savings from your energy bill to pay for the upgrades over time.

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- No Upfront Cost
- 0% Financing
- Up to 15 Year Loan Terms
- Rebates Made Easy
- Professional Guidance
- Help Finding a Contractor
- Simple Paperwork
- One-Time 5% Admin Fee
(Waived for income-qualified homeowners)

COMBINE WITH OTHER INCENTIVES

The program is compatible with other efficiency programs. You could be eligible for rebates from Efficiency NS and the new federal Greener Homes Program!

Email
info@cozycolchester.ca
Website
cozycolchester.ca

Phone
(902) 920-0615
Instagram
[@carbonfreecolchester](https://www.instagram.com/carbonfreecolchester)



Colchester

1 Church Street
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 3Z5

www.colchester.ca

Toll Free (in NS):
1-866-728-5144

Reception - 902-897-3160,
902-897-3150, 902-897-3175
Administration
Tax Office
Public Works

Community Development - 902-897-3170
Building Inspection
Development Officer
Planning

Property Information - 902-897-3178
Colchester Recreation - 902-897-3185
recreation@colchester.ca

Materials Recovery Facility and
Regional Balefill Facility - 902-897-0450
Waste & Recycling Helpline:
902-895-4777
helpline@colchester.ca

Fax Numbers

Courthouse Building

Administration - 902-843-4066
Community Development - 902-843-4061
Finance / Tax Office - 902-843-4067
Human Resources - 902-843-4063
Information Services - 902-843-4068
Property Information - 902-843-4062
Engineering/Public Works - 902-843-4064
Recreation Services - 902-843-4065

External Locations

Regional Sewage
Treatment Plant - 902-897-0335
Materials Recovery Facility/
Waste Reduction - 902-897-0453
Regional Balefill Facility - 895-2307

A Message From the RCMP

RCMP



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Protecting each other from

**GIFT
CARD**

FRAUD

? Ask yourself:

- Does this transaction make sense?
- Would you be OK if your loved one was making this purchase?

? Ask the customer:

- Have you met the person the cards are for?
- Is this being sent to someone you met on the phone or online?
- Is this a payment for income taxes, police fines, taxes on lottery/
prize winnings or to help someone in an emergency or hard times?

If the customer answers "YES" to one or more of
these questions, please ask them to call their **local
police** before purchasing the gift cards.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

Canada