



Colchester Newsletter

Hello Colchester!

Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of Colchester's newsletter, where we share exciting news, helpful tips and much more with our residents!

Photo by Felicia Marie

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Hello from Mayor Blair! **2**

Read about what's happening in Colchester, straight from the Mayor's office!

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Find out who won - and how to contact your Councillor

Be centred here.



CHECK THIS OUT!

Thanks to Cindy Ryan for submitting this photo of MacElmons Pond! She was one of the winners from our most recent photo contest.

Want to be a winner? Submit your photos to photos@colchester.ca and you will be entered to win a Colchester swag bag and could be featured in our next newsletter edition.

From the Mayor's Desk



The Municipality of Colchester is beginning a new term for the Council elected to office on October 19th and sworn in at its inaugural meeting by Justice Jeffrey Hunt on October 30, 2024.

As a newly-formed Council of 12 persons, with varying municipal experience, we have been elected to make decisions on our constituents behalf and to do the hard work of setting policy to deliver services to the community.

Why does this matter?

Local government has the greatest impact on one's day-to-day life. Local government owns and operates the infrastructure that provides the foundation for the health, well being and economic prosperity of communities. Dependable core services make up the built environment and provide these basic necessities of life that residents rely on.

Local government is not the same as the provincial or federal governments. We are designed to be representative of the greater community; respond to local needs; and are the front lines of government. With a healthy balance of differing perspectives and skills, our job as local elected officials is governance, to set bylaws and policy that will serve the community and provide clear direction now and into the future.

As the Mayor and Councillors of this municipality, we are the representatives of local people, but we are also local people ourselves. We have run for office to make our communities better. Ideas will differ, but this is a good thing. It means communities have robust representatives, people who care.

The great work this Municipality has done will continue and we will keep the momentum going. Thank you, the residents of Colchester County, for placing your faith in us.

Nova Scotia Stampede: The inaugural Nova Scotia Stampede was a huge success. Congratulations to the team from the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, Matt Moore, and the 175 Volunteers who all worked so very hard.

4-H Pro Show: Our Municipality was delighted to welcome back the 44th Annual 4-H Provincial Show. 4-H creates leaders in our communities, especially in the agricultural fields. Our Municipality has been a supporter of 4-H programs and projects over the years and it has been my pleasure to have been asked to be a judge at various competitions. We look forward to 2025.

Congratulations Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation: It was a pleasure to attend the celebratory event in honour of Chief Terry Paul being Chief of Membertou First Nation for 40 consecutive years. Over a remarkable career, Chief Paul has paired vision with action, transforming his community into one of Canada's most economically successful Indigenous communities. On behalf of the Municipality of Colchester, I was pleased to offer Chief Paul our congratulations.

Colchester's First Responders: The dedication of the over 500 volunteer firefighters and first responders in Colchester's fire brigades and ground search and rescue, is second to none. If you have an opportunity to say hello to them at the various open houses or at public events, please do so, and remember they are always looking for new members.

In Closing: Again this year, we remembered those who fought or were fallen in world wars on Remembrance Day, November 11. It is always an honour for me, and for Councillors, to lay a wreath on behalf of our Municipality. We will remember them.

I want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season 2024. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year 2025.

My kind regards to all,
Christine Blair, Mayor



Recreation

Provincial Volunteer Recognition

On September 18, 2024, The Province of Nova Scotia hosted the 50th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. The Municipality of Colchester had the honour of being represented by Andrea MacEachern. Andrea has worked tirelessly to establish, organize and operate Colchester Ringette, a brand-new ringette organization here in Colchester County. Working with Colchester Recreation to secure funding and support with the result that she was able to offer a full season of weekly Ringette for a very low cost. She secured ice, instructors and developed a fun, season long ringette program for youth in Colchester County. We are incredibly grateful for Andrea’s dedication and hard work in bringing this exciting new opportunity to our community.

Congratulations, Andrea, on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for inspiring the next generation of ringette players in Colchester County!



Snowshoe and Equipment Loan Program

Individuals and groups can borrow both child and adult sized snowshoes as well as a variety of games, recreation and sports equipment.

A \$25 deposit is required.

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

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



Contact

- Website:** colchester.ca/recreation
- Phone:** 902-897-3150 Option 5
- Email:** recreation@colchester.ca
- Facebook:** @MunColRec

Solid Waste



Solid Waste Closures & Curbside Collection Update

The Solid Waste Facilities in Kemptown will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas Day, Thursday, December 26th for Boxing Day, and Wednesday, January 1st for New Years Day.

Important Curbside Collection Updates

- If your collection is scheduled for Wednesday, December 25th, this collection will take place the Monday BEFORE on December 23rd.
- If your collection is scheduled for Thursday, December 26th, this collection will take place the Monday AFTER on December 30th.
- If your collection is scheduled for Wednesday, January 1st, this collection will take place the Monday AFTER on January 6th.

All materials should be curbside before 7:00 am on your collection day, to ensure it is collected. All garbage taken to the Balfill Facility, whether residential or business, MUST BE in clear bags or you will be asked to re-bag into clear bags. Cash, personal cheques or INTERAC are accepted as payment. Credit cards are NOT accepted.



Holiday Tree Collection

Holiday Tree collection begins on January 14 and ends on January 24, 2025. To ensure your tree is collected, have trees out ON or BEFORE January 14, 2025. All trees must be visible (unburied), free of lights, ornaments and stands. Trees must be debagged and NOT frozen to the ground to ensure collection.



Proper Sharps Disposal

Used Sharps must be handled properly!

- DO NOT put used sharps in plastic bottles or jugs for disposal.
- DO NOT place sharps in recycling or garbage bags.
- DO NOT place sharps in green carts.

They can seriously harm municipal staff and haulers who are handling these bags.

When needles are carelessly discarded, they can puncture skin and transmit infectious diseases, endangering the well-being of those handling and sorting the waste. To ensure the safety of all workers and the public it is crucial for individuals to utilize proper disposal methods such as designated sharps containers for used needles. Please dispose of your sharps safely.

Here's how:

1. Pick up a FREE Safe Sharps container at YOUR local pharmacy.
2. Place your used sharps into the Safe Sharps container.
3. When the container is full, return the sealed container to YOUR community pharmacy.



Contact

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

Community Development

NEW Online Permit System

In partnership with Clariti Launch, the Municipality of Colchester's permits are going online. The new permit system will be available for all municipal permits including; building, development, sewer, driveway, frontage culvert, water, solar, and demolition permits along with civic numbers and sign requests. Apply, pay and check your permit statuses online from your own account! This platform will allow you to send messages to staff and submit documents that are required for your permit as well as forms and downloads.



APPLY



PAY



CHECK STATUS

Visit our website at colchester.ca/permits for the link to create your account and to apply for your permits. This new service will be available to residents beginning January 1, 2025.

RetroFIT Special Promotion

Cozy Colchester has partnered with local recreational facilities to offer new participants of the program a FREE annual membership! To qualify for this incentive, simply complete any eligible project valued at \$3,000 or higher through the Cozy Colchester program and choose an annual membership from:



- Rath Eastlink Community Centre
- Scotia Pool
- Cougar Dome
- Truro Curling Club
- Stronger Together Athletics
- or family season passes to the Truro Bearcats hockey games!

It's a good time make your home cozier with a new heat pump, windows, doors, insulation and more, let's get retroFIT Colchester! Visit cozycolchester.ca or call 902-920-0615 to learn more.

Plan It Colchester Project Update

The project has reached an exciting milestone with the release of the draft Municipal Planning Strategy and draft Land Use By-law for Colchester early in November. The draft planning documents were informed by feedback we received from the community in the initial phase of engagement and now we want to hear your thoughts! What did we get right? What needs to be re-examined or changed? What's missing? The draft documents will be subject to change based on what we hear from residents and stakeholders.

In November, we held 6 community meetings. If you did not get a chance to attend, you can still share your feedback on the draft planning documents online! On our website you can find the following:

- Draft MPS and LUB Documents
- Online Zoning Map - check out the proposed zoning on your property
- Fact Sheets - learn a bit more about the proposed policies on important issues
- Feedback Form - submit your comments or questions to the project team



Plan It Colchester relies heavily on feedback from the community to help shape the vision, guiding principles and policies that will determine how the Municipality grows and develops.

Visit colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester to share your thoughts!
Contact

Website: colchester.ca/community-development
Phone: 902-897-3150 Option 4
Email: comdev@colchester.ca



Colchester

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

December 2024

03 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 TUES Presentation Meeting (on an as needed basis)

12 **Council Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS

24 **Municipal Office Closure @ Noon**
 TUES Christmas Eve

25 **Municipal Office Closure**
 WED Christmas Day

26 **Municipal Office Closure**
 THURS Boxing Day

January 2025

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

07 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 FRI Presentation Meeting (on an as needed basis)

14 **Holiday Tree Collection Begins**
 TUES Have trees curbside by 7:00 am

16 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS

30 **Council Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS

31 **Funding Deadline**
 FRI Community Trail and Grants to Non-Profit

February 2025

04 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 TUES Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

13 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS

17 **Municipal Office Closure**
 MON Family Day

27 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS

28 **Funding Deadline**
 FRI Community Park Funding

March 2025

04 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 TUES Presentation Meeting (on an as needed basis)

13 **Council Committee Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS

27 **Council Meeting** 6 PM
 THURS



To apply for our grants, or for more information, visit colchester.ca/grants-and-funding

2024 Municipal Election Results



The Municipal Election held on October 19, 2024, resulted in an overall voter turnout of 36.45%. All residents were able to vote for their mayoral candidate while residents of Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 also voted for Councillor.

There were three Councillors acclaimed. This means that only one person submitted their name to run in that District and therefore no election for that seat was necessary.

The acclaimed Councillors are: Laurie Sandeson - District 2, Sherry Martell - District 7, and Lisa Patton - District 8.

The results are listed below:

Election for Mayor								
Eligible Voters	Christine Blair	Geoff Stewart	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
30,742	5,784	5,409	13	11,206	36.45%			
Election for Councillor - District 1								
Eligible Voters	Eric Boutilier	Paul Weatherby	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
2,659	355	469	1	825	31.03%			
Election for Councillor - District 3								
Eligible Voters	Joel Dawe	Sheldon Richardson	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
2,552	406	539	8	953	37.34%			
Election for Councillor - District 4								
Eligible Voters	Mike Cooper	John Vissers	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
2,697	568	365	1	934	34.63%			
Election for Councillor - District 5								
Eligible Voters	Bonnie Brown	Tim Johnson	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
2,562	193	718	1	912	35.60%			
Election for Councillor - District 6								
Eligible Voters	Kelly Herron-Jacobs	Nigel Leggett	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
2,988	383	929	0	1,312	43.91%			
Election for Councillor - District 9								
Eligible Voters	Marie Benoit	Andrew MacKinnon	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout			
3,098	820	480	1	1,301	41.99%			
Election for Councillor - District 10								
Eligible Voters	Charlene Fletcher	Victoria Lomond	Doug MacInnes	Mike Rushton	Cheryl-Ann Slack	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout
2985	634	452	80	39	93	1	1299	43.52%
Election for Councillor - District 11								
Eligible Voters	Al Kennedy	Wade MacCallum	Sean MacDonald	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout		
3098	573	433	280	0	1286	41.51%		

Council Contact Info

Photo by Barry Sonmor

Plebiscite for Managed Deer Hunt

A plebiscite was conducted in the Municipal Election for residents in affected communities (Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11). They voted on whether they support a managed deer hunt, provided that data supports this as a viable option.

The decision will consider public opinion as part of the broader effort to address the challenges posed by the growing deer population.

The results are listed below:

Plebiscite for Managed Deer Hunt (Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11)					
Eligible Voters	Yes	No	Rejected Ballots	Total Ballots Cast	% Voter Turnout
16337	4659	1402	10	6071	37.16

Council Contact Info

Below is the contact information for the Mayor and Councillors for the 2024-2028 term of Council. This information can also be found on our website at colchester.ca/municipal-council.



Position	Name	Number	Email
Mayor	Christine Blair	902-897-3184	cblair@colchester.ca
Councillor District 1	Paul Weatherby	902-897-8572	pweatherby@colchester.ca
Councillor District 2	Laurie Sandeson	902-957-2206	lsandeson@colchester.ca
Councillor District 3	Sheldon Richardson	902-899-6335	srichardson@colchester.ca
Councillor District 4	Mike Cooper	902-671-2854	mcooper@colchester.ca
Councillor District 5	Tim Johnson	902-899-0590	tjohnson@colchester.ca
Councillor District 6	Nigel Leggett	902-890-1873	nleggett@colchester.ca
Councillor District 7	Sherry Martell	902-324-8729	smartell@colchester.ca
Councillor District 8	Lisa Patton	902-890-8630	lpatton@colchester.ca
Councillor District 9	Marie Benoit	902-324-9011	mboenoit@colchester.ca
Councillor District 10	Charlene Fletcher	902-956-1066	cfletcher@colchester.ca
Councillor District 11	Allan Kennedy	902-956-1793	akennedy@colchester.ca

Public Works

Snowplowing – Roads and Sidewalks

Did you know that the Municipality, Province, and Villages share the responsibility for snow removal on roads and sidewalks? Check out our online interactive road map on the Municipality's website.



The Municipality is responsible for snow removal on 32kms of roads throughout the County. These roads are all within subdivisions in Valley, Bible Hill, and Debert. Our crews also clear snow from 33kms of sidewalks throughout Brookfield, Debert, Hilden, North River, Onslow, Salmon River, Truro Heights, and Valley. If you have a snowplowing concern in one of these areas, please contact our Public Works Office at 902-897-3150, Option 2.



The Village of Bible Hill clears snow from all sidewalks in Bible Hill. If you have a concern with snow removal on a Bible Hill sidewalk, you can contact their office at 902-893-8083. The Village of Tatamagouche is responsible for snow removal on all sidewalks in Tatamagouche. Please contact their office at 902-657-3696 with any concerns.

The provincial Nova Scotia Public Works Department clears snow from the remaining roads throughout the County. Please reach out to their Operations Centre at 1-844-696-7737 with any concerns.

Lastly, parking bans are in effect from November 15th to April 15th. We ask that you do not park on County owned roads or parking lots before, during, and after winter storms for staff to safely remove snow. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience this winter season.

Keeping Foundation Drains Clear of Snow & Ice

With snowplowing season upon us, snow from roads will end up in the ditches along your property. With the accumulation of snow and wet winter weather, backups can occur if you have your foundation drains piped into the ditch. Foundation drains should be laid at the proper grade, have a backflow valve installed and be kept free of any sags to prevent the ponding and freezing of water. We often get calls in the winter for backups caused by frozen foundation drains. It is the responsibility of the Homeowners to keep drains free of snow and ice.

Issues can also arise if your sump pump is connected to your foundation drain and water cannot get to the ditch. We recommend that you have a separate pipe that allows sump pump water to be discharged above ground and not tied into your foundation/footing drains. We don't allow sump pumps to be connected to sewer lines.

Will Your Property be Vacant over the Winter?

If you are connected to our public water system in Debert or Tatamagouche and plan to keep your property vacant over the winter, you should consider a temporary water shut off. Even though you might shut the water off inside your home, pipes can still freeze between your shut off and your foundation wall, leaving you open to major water damage.

The cost for a utility shut off is \$50 in Debert and \$60 in Tatamagouche, and there is no fee to have the water turned back on in the spring during our regular working hours. Please call our Public Works Office at (902) 897-3150, Option 2, to arrange to have your water turned off at the street.

Contact

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



Tax Office

Photo by Edward Sampson

Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2024/2025 property tax bills were due on August 30, 2024. Outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.00% per month.

What Happens When Property Taxes Are Not Paid?

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

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

Change of Address

If you have not received your 2024 tax bill, please update your mailing address now. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that the correct mailing address is on your property tax account.

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

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

Notice of Assessment

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) assesses every property in Nova Scotia and mails the Property Assessment Notices to property owners every January. When you get your Property Assessment Notice:

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

Remember that the Notice of Assessment is not your tax bill, we will mail our tax bills separately in June 2025. To learn more about property assessments in Nova Scotia please visit pvsc.ca.



Contact

Website: colchester.ca/finance
Phone: 902-897-3162
Email: taxoffice@colchester.ca

Art Acquisition Program

From November 1-29, Colchester County proudly showcased 32 art pieces at the NSCC McCarthy Hall. On November 12th, we hosted our 36th Annual Art Show, where a County representative announced this year's selected piece for our Art Acquisition Program, as well as the winning artist. Congratulations to the 2024 Art Acquisition Winner, Nancy Crowe Samson, for their artwork titled "Country Girl at Heart". We look forward to continuing the tradition with our 2025 Art Acquisition Program and Art Show!



Connect With Us Online

-  Website: Colchester.ca
-  Facebook: [@ColchesterNS](https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterNS)
-  Instagram: [@ColchesterCounty](https://www.instagram.com/ColchesterCounty)
-  LinkedIn: [@Municipality-of-Colchester](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Municipality-of-Colchester)
-  X: [@MunColchester](https://twitter.com/MunColchester)

Accessibility & Inclusion

Do you, or someone you know, have challenges accessing municipal information or services, or participating in programs or community engagement opportunities (for example a visual or hearing impairment, mobility, or cognitive challenge)?

Please contact Devin Trefry by calling 902-897-3182 or email dtrefry@colchester.ca to discuss ways that we may be able to accommodate or assist.

Contact

Phone: 902-897-3150
Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
For evening and/ or weekend emergencies, call 902-897-3175