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Scarecrow Festival volunteer Lisette Jones poses for a photo with scarecrow Taylor Swift, while Swift's personal security scarecrow keeps a watchful eye. Photo credit: Karen Pinsent

Mahone Bay Scarecrow Festival is a perfect celebration of fall

Sharon Jessup Joyce

Taylor Swift is in Mahone Bay this month. And you don't even have to buy a ticket to see her. That's because this particular Taylor Swift is a scarecrow, one of more than 200 figures created as part of the Mahone Bay Scarecrow Festival, now in its 29th year. The festival runs from September 26 to October 13 this year, wrapping up on Thanksgiving Monday. As summer gives way to fall each year, dozens of volunteers

can be seen carefully transporting scarecrows throughout the town, setting up vignettes that invite both smiles and selfies. There is always a mix of familiar favourites and new scarecrows. In addition to Ms. Swift, some of this year's newbies include the Campbell's Soup kids, a trio of burly lumberjacks, and Mrs. Gump, who will be joining Forrest at the festival. Every one of the festival's scarecrows represents a marriage of creativity and engineering, supported by a lot of painstaking work and skill, from the frames to the costumes to the accessories to the faces, the latter being painted by local artists.

appears on lists of the prettiest towns in Canada, pulls out all the stops during the Scarecrow Festival, continually finding new ways to celebrate the season. For example, the 3rd Annual NS Fruit Pie Baking Contest and Sale, happening this year on Saturday, October 4, is a tasty throwback to the classic fall fair. And after the pies are judged and prizes awarded to the participating bakers, there's a Baked Bean & Brown Bread



One of the fairie houses decked out for autumn. Photo credit: Kathryn Cocks
Photo credit: Betty Meredith

It's a year-round project and, says Sylvia Jackson, chair of the Festivals of Mahone Bay Society, "a labour of love by a lot of dedicated people." That labour is appreciated by both Mahone Bay residents and visitors, says Jackson. The festival helps to extend the tourist season and provides an opportunity for visitors to find out what Nova Scotians already know: autumn is beautiful in this province. And Mahone Bay, which regularly



Save the Peggy's Cove Church
A major fundraising campaign has begun to preserve St. John's Church. See story page 2. Photo credit: Fred Dolbel

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Campaign seeks to save church in Peggy’s Cove

Sharon Jessup Joyce



St. John's Anglican Church is a beloved Peggy's Cove landmark that supporters are seeking to restore and make available for multiple purposes. Photo credit: Kelly George

In 1883, construction was begun on St. John’s Anglican Church in Peggy’s Cove, only 15 years after the village’s iconic lighthouse was erected. Since then, the two buildings have stood as familiar sentinels, facing each other across the rugged landscape, instantly recognizable as being among the most famous human-made landmarks in

Canada. But time and the climate of Nova Scotia’s coast have taken a toll. The church, a white-painted Gothic Revival wooden structure, needs significant repairs. In response, the Peggy’s Cove Preservation Society (PCPS) and the Parish of St. Peter’s Church—which includes St. John’s—have embarked on a major, multi-part

restoration that is dependent on an ambitious fundraising campaign.

In the past 30 years, the aging and increasingly small congregation has poured nearly \$300,000 into necessary repairs. But now they need support from the community, and they’re hoping businesses and individuals will pitch in.

“We wish to restore it as a Heritage building to be a sustainable landmark for the long term,” says Fred Dolbel, the parish council chair.

Once the building is protected from further deterioration and safely accessible, the plan is to make it available for public and visitor use for art displays, concerts and music performances, weddings, community events, faith-based conferences, and other cultural and visitor activities.

The project will take several years and around \$400,000 to complete.

“It’s a significant cost,” acknowledges Dolbel. “But we can tackle the work as a series of smaller projects as funding becomes available.”

The first priority is to repair the advanced deterioration in and around the large stained-glass window assembly on the north wall—and to do the work to heritage-building standards.

Thanks to initial fundraising efforts—a Community Grant



Ken Ryder, Shawn Kelly and Cooper Macdonald, beginning the work to restore the church’s north wall. Photo credit: Fred Dolbel

from HRM and generous support from area residents and business owners, including John Campbell—that work has begun.

Anyone interested in donating to the fundraising campaign can do so by visiting the Canada Helps website or by making a cash donation to the Parish of St. Peter’s Church. A charitable tax receipt will be issued.

A colour postcard featuring the church and village, with a QR code that goes to the Canada Helps website, is also available

at various community locations. Campaign organizers are hoping area residents and visitors will send the cards to people who have visited Peggy’s Cove and might consider making a donation.

“The church welcomes people from all over the world—over 700,000 visitors come to Peggy’s Cove each year,” says Fred Dolbel. “We want to make sure the church can continue to offer that welcome for generations to come.”

Where to get The Masthead News

With the current postal action, there is no home delivery of *The Masthead News*. See the list of participating pick-up locations here: themastheadnews.ca. Our thanks to those businesses and community spaces for their support.



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Moments in the life of St. John’s Church

Sheila Crooks and Eliza Manuel

A notable donation to St John’s Church of two large murals painted by W.E. deGarthe was made in 1963.

During the period 2016-2020, pre-COVID, local members of St. Peter’s Parish and the community would open the Peggy’s Cove church for 6 to 7 hours a day, 3 to 4 days a week, in July, August and early September. We would welcome between 4,000 and 6,000 visitors from all around the world each summer. We hope to find volunteers to help with opening the church for visitors again soon.

Some came to see the church and take photos inside, including of the DeGarthe murals; others would come for a calm place to reflect and pray. Many people would ask our volunteer guides about the church’s history and local history and some even asked to play the church organ.

In the difficult time following the Swiss Air crash in 1998, the church provided a quiet place for families of those lost. Telephone lines were installed in the church at this time for this purpose. Special church services were held to honour first responders, volunteers and RCMP.

Sheila Crooks is secretary-treasurer, St. John’s Anglican Church. Eliza Manuel is a member of the Peggy’s Cove Preservation Society.

Black cats—a sign of good luck?

Jennifer LeBlanc

Black cats are prevalent in Halloween images and lore. But while most of us know black cats have been associated with witches and bad luck, they have some good-luck traditions associated with them, too:

In Japan, black cats have been seen as symbols of prosperity and a happy outcome, including marriage for black-cat-owning single women seeking to find a spouse.

In some agricultural areas, black cats were seen as lucky, perhaps because, without paler fur to reflect light, they may have been especially effective protecting grain stores at night from rodents.

Sailors have always valued cats on board ships to control the rodent population, but British sailors historically preferred black cats, which were thought to help bring favourable winds and prevent storms.

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Happy Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving observations in Nova Scotia were in the 1750s. Adopted from the Pilgrims of Massachusetts, the event was originally mostly a religious expression of gratitude for survival, and only later became a celebration of the harvest.

On the move: Fall migration gives birders lots to see *Jason Dain*



Vagrant: The Wood Stork is native to the tropics and subtropics of the Americas and is well out of its range in Nova Scotia. Photo credit: Jason Dain

Here in Nova Scotia, we have both seasonal and resident birds. Some species, like our Wood Warblers or Osprey, come to our province to breed and raise young for the summer months and then migrate south as fall approaches. Other species, like Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees, stay in the same general area all year round. They may move around regionally in search of food, but they do not migrate south.

Given our geographic location, migrant birds make up a good proportion of the birds we see in Nova Scotia. The types of migrants we see include birds that winter in the south—from the southern United States to South America—and then come here to breed; birds that breed in the far north and stop off here on their way to or from their breeding grounds; birds that breed in the far north that overwinter here; and birds that breed in the southern hemisphere and spend their winters (our summers) here.

The most exciting category for birders is the vagrant, a bird that ends up here accidentally due to a weather system or the bird's own messed-up internal navigation system.

If you're interested in finding migrating birds, a great tool to use is Cornell University's Birdcast (birdcast.info). This site collects data from various weather stations and radar sites to predict and display real-time bird migration. It's a valuable resource to learn more about migration, so you can plan to get out when there are lots of birds on the move.

Spring and fall migration are some of the most exciting times of the year for birders. I encourage you to get out, even in your own backyard, and see what birds might be regulars, rather than just passing through at different times of the year.

You never know what you might see.



The Tree Swallow comes north each year to feed, and is one of the species seen in this area. Photo credit: Jason Dain

What makes Nova Scotia a birder's paradise?

Nova Scotia is located on the Great Atlantic Flyway, a superhighway for birds that migrate between the north and south. Sticking out into the North Atlantic as our province does, it's a convenient resting, breeding or wintering spot for many bird species.

Considerable habitat diversity, with ocean coasts, lakes, rivers, streams, and marshes, as well as flats, forests, and fields, all attract and sustain a large variety of birds as well.

Finally, Nova Scotia continues to have a relatively low human population and relatively few urban centres, with both factors aiding wild bird populations' survival. However, habitat destruction through development, forestry, erosion, and climate change are threatening bird populations in Nova Scotia as they are elsewhere.

Learn more at Nova Scotia Nature Trust (nsnt.ca/volunteer/birdseyeview).



The Purple Sandpiper is a far-north breeder that overwinters in this area. Photo credit: Jason Dain

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A photograph of an older man with white hair, wearing a yellow shirt and a blue plaid jacket, sitting on a rocky beach. He is smiling. Next to him are two young girls with blonde hair, wearing pink pajamas with a heart pattern. One girl is holding a doll. They are all looking towards the camera.

The logo for Fair Winds Financial Coach. It features a stylized green and blue flag or sail above the text "FAIR WINDS" in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with "FINANCIAL COACH" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.

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- Across**
- 1 *David Suzuki's concern
- 7 Univ. transcript no.
- 10 *Homie's home
- 14 De-pleated?
- 15 Popeye's Olive
- 16 Play's ___'acte
- 17 Where to buy jawbreakers and jujubes
- 19 Hairy Himalayan
- 20 The "O" of NATO: Abbr.
- 21 Overstater's "very"
- 22 Lima lover's word
- 23 Margaret who wrote "The Stone Angel"
- 26 Played loudly, as music
- 29 Eagerly enjoyed
- 30 *Line dancing genre
- 31 "Scram!"
- 33 Den ___ (The Hague, in Holland)
- 34 Get gold, maybe
- 35 Bank stmt. bottom lines
- 38 Shed ___ (weep)
- 40 Drag on a joint
- 41 Alka-Seltzer alternative
- 42 B.C.'s ___ de Fuca Strait
- 43 Doctor on "Yo! MTV Raps"
- 45 Covers all around
- 47 Isn't for everybody?
- 51 *Skater's 8, for one
- 52 *A cut above
- 55 Sue Grafton's "___ for Ricochet"
- 56 Vietnam's Ho Chi ___
- 57 Sporty VW model
- 58 Custard dessert
- 60 Humbly admit to being wrong
- 63 *Rich deposit
- 64 Miracle-___ (plant food)
- 65 "Swan Lake" princess

- 66 Not ___ of roses (unpleasant)
- 67 MD for women
- 68 She's the matriarch and she "comes in ahead" of the answers to the starred clues
- Down**
- 1 BC's Thompson-___ region north of the Okanagan
- 2 Mount where Noah landed
- 3 *Part of a shoe or a mouth
- 4 Prussian plus
- 5 Spanish king
- 6 Yellowhead town west of Edmonton
- 7 **"Silly" bird
- 8 Maniac with matches
- 9 Pint at the pub, perhaps
- 10 "What's the big idea, pal!"
- 11 Hardly a handful
- 12 Senators, on a scoreboard
- 13 Soft & ___ deodorant
- 18 Brownie ingredient that gives you the munchies
- 22 Chug-___
- 24 Toupées, slangily
- 25 Prefix with -taph or -graph
- 26 *Committee
- 27 "The Red" Viking
- 28 Small unit of force
- 30 National car club: Abbr.
- 32 Brownish-grey
- 33 *Coop layer
- 35 Bone to pick
- 36 ABBA member ___-Frid Lyngstad
- 37 Shoddily built
- 39 Learning aides, briefly
- 40 Part of Y.T. and N.W.T.: Abbr.
- 42 Canner's needs

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- 44 Actress Issa
- 46 Destroyed
- 48 Musical note with a hook
- 49 Jot down
- 50 More clichéd
- 52 Keep to one's self, as news
- 53 The loneliest numero
- 54 ___ Penh, Cambodia
- 56 *Contrary gardener of nursery rhyme
- 58 NHL Panthers' state: Abbr.
- 59 High pitch?
- 60 It's verboten to a vegan
- 61 Tokyo, before 1868
- 62 Place of "Action!"

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Congratulations, Bay Treasure Chest winners!



Steve LeBlanc of Black Point won \$12,013 with his number 36187 on August 27.



Natalie Gillis of Ottawa (shown here with parents, Joe and Yvette, and brother Duncan), won \$11,715 with her number 8110 on September 3.



Sharon Barkhouse of Hubbards won \$37,925 with her number 1888 on September 24.



Definition: (droh-luh-ree) Noun, plural: droll-er-ies.

1. Something that is droll; especially: a comic picture or drawing.

2. The act or an instance of jesting or burlesquing.

3. A droll quality or manner; whimsical humour.

Check out more Drollery at: drollerybydollery.com

THE
MASTHEAD NEWS

The eyes and ears of the Community

themastheadnews.ca

info@themastheadnews.ca 902 826 1302

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October 20 | Publication date October 28

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Free three-part series supports end-of-life planning

Tasha Keith



From left: Reverend Rick Gunn, Allanna Jost, and Tasha Keith discuss plans for their upcoming series on end-of-life planning.

It is the one thing that happens to everyone, but many don't feel comfortable talking about: someday we are all going to die.

The outreach team of St. Luke's United Church in Upper Tantallon saw many people struggling to know where to start when making end-of-life care choices.

"I see the need myself in the community," says Reverend Rick Gunn, the church's minister. "There was no question we wanted to support the outreach team."

It was from this goal that the "Dying to Learn" series was born. It is a three-part series being offered free to the community, organized by Reverend Rick Gun, Allanna Jost, and me.

Three free events in the series will be offered at St. Lukes United Church, 5474 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Upper Tantallon: November 5, End of Life Planning and Care; November 12, Care/Aging in Place;

and November 19, Hospice Care. Doors open at 6:15. For more information visit stlukesunited.ca.

Allanna Jost is a community occupational therapist for NS Health. She agrees that navigating advance care and end-of-life care options is a topic she hears about often.

"It may feel overwhelming knowing where to start," she says, "But planning now will ease some stress of these decisions later."

I became an advocate for end-of-life care after my husband, Rob, passed away at Hospice Halifax from brain cancer. Before Rob was sick, I didn't know that we were lucky enough to have access to a place like Hospice Halifax.

I will always take any opportunity to share our family's experience, especially if it helps others as they consider their own end-of-life care planning.

Reader-recommended day trips

An autumn drive from Chester to Windsor *Melissa Phillips*



Tracking the changing fall foliage on Highway 14 between Chester and Windsor. Photo credit: Melissa Phillips

Moving here 7 years ago from the Ottawa area with my Nova Scotia-born husband, there was only one thing I really missed: the autumn leaves of the Gatineau Hills. Cape Breton is gorgeous in the fall, but I needed miles of gold, peach, and crimson closer to home.

We found it in a two-hour drive that

feeds my craving for autumn colour the rest of the year. Highway 14, from Chester to Windsor and back, offers stretches of woods with leaves ranging from bright yellow to dark burgundy. We make the drive two or three times during the season, savouring the changing colours.

Mahone Bay is magical

Mary Williams



Late September in Mahone Bay, during the Scarecrow Festival. Photo credit: Betty Meredith

When my friends moved to Nova Scotia 15 years ago, I developed a tradition of an annual trip to visit them. I've come in every season—even winter one year—but my favourite time to visit is in September or October. Driving from their home in St. Margaret's Bay to spend a day in Mahone Bay is always on our itinerary, and it's my only must-do for every visit. For me, the

town is a magical place. I confess to feeling envious of every lucky person who lives close enough to spend more than a day a year in Mahone Bay.

Do you have a favourite day trip in our province? Submit a photo or two and a small story of 100 words or less to info@themastheadnews.ca. Remember to put "Day trip" in the subject line.



Trio of supermoons

The full moons on October 7, November 5, and December 4 will be supermoons. A supermoon is when the full moon is relatively closer to the earth, making it look brighter and up to 17% larger. The effect is most noticeable when the moon has just risen and is still near the horizon.



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Crossroad Artists Annual Art Show & Sale October 24th - 26th, 2025



Friday 4pm - 7pm; Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm
St. Luke's United Church, lower hall
5374 St. Margaret's Bay Rd., Upper Tantallon
crossroadartists.ca

Nourish your love of art at Crossroad Artists annual show and sale



Gretchen Amirault puts the finishing touches on her “Nourishment” painting, a bunch of beets in moody hues. In the background, a painting by Susan George. Photo credit: Philip Hodges

The Masthead News Staff

The Crossroad Artists Annual Art Show & Sale, a longtime fall favourite for art appreciators, is on Friday October 24 to Sunday, October 26 this year.

The show and sale is an opportunity to see a wide variety of works by the 18 members of the Crossroad Artists, a group established by Beth Matthews in 2006. Members paint together on Friday mornings.

“Like any painting group that has been around that long, we’ve had some changes in membership,” says Matthews. “But what never changes is our appreciation for that weekly opportunity to share ideas and offer feedback to each other.”

In addition to the other works for sale, each of the artists is contributing a 6”x6” painting, on the theme of “Nourishment.” Those will be sold for \$100 each,

with all proceeds from the sale of those special paintings to be donated to the St. Margaret’s Bay Food Bank.

“Most of us approached the theme from the perspective of food,” says Matthews. “And of course we value that nourishment even more in times like these, with the effects of food insecurity and drought.”

She adds that nourishment also has broader meanings. “For example, I would say, as an artist who paints with a wonderful group of other artists, that we are nourished by appreciating the support and encouragement we give each other.”

The Crossroad Artists Annual Art Show & Sale is on the lower level of St. Luke’s United Church, 5374 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, in Upper Tantallon. The hours are Friday, 4-7pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 4pm.

Adult learner’s confidence continues to grow Lloyd S. Wagner

“Keep learning, be kind, and know your worth,” says Robert Cook, summarizing the “big

lesson” he learned through 5 years of continuing education. His message was enthusiastically

received at “A Celebration of Lifelong Learning,” held at Halifax Central Library on April 4 this year. The event, part of Adult Learners’ Week, was sponsored by Literacy Nova Scotia and presented in partnership with Halifax Public Libraries. Learners were also acknowledged at a gala at Casino Nova Scotia the previous evening.

Last year, Cook received the Neil Hudson Memorial Award, presented annually in memory of Neil Hudson, a popular Western Halifax Community Learning Network instructor. The award recognizes learners who have made significant strides in their personal and educational journeys (*The Masthead News*, July 2024, p. 15).

But learning did not come easily to Cook when he was young.

“It just didn’t work for me,” he says, explaining that this led to a lack of confidence as an adult. In 2020, he discovered Western Halifax Community Learning Network (WHCLN), where he enrolled to hone his reading and writing skills. Now, 5 years later, Cook continues to be a familiar face at WHCLN, where he works on his computer skills, nurtures interests in graphic arts and podcasting, participates in weekly cooking classes, and edits a monthly newsletter. With all this, he says, comes more confidence.

“Since coming to WHCLN,” he notes, “I have had four great instructors who have given me more confidence in myself to become the person I am trying to be.”

His instructors have high praise



Adult learner Robert Cook and instructor Jeanette MacKay set up and test equipment for the “Introduction to Podcasting” course.

for him, too.

“It’s been a pleasure to watch Robert grow and thrive as an adult learner,” says WHCLN executive director Lesta Armstrong. “Robert represents what lifelong learning is all about—being open to learning and trying new things. His daily commitment, courage, humour, and generous spirit inspire all of us.”

Instructor Jeannette MacKay agrees.

“Robert’s story is one of

resilience, transformation, and heart, one that inspires all of us—learners and educators alike,” she says.

Adds MacKay, “I cannot wait to see where his journey takes him next.”

For information on what Western Halifax Community Learning Network has to offer, visit westernhalifaxcln.com, call 902-225-6320, or email info@westernhalifaxcln.com.



Rick Burns

MLA for Hammonds Plains-Lucasville

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Adult learning at WHCLN

Lesta Armstrong

With Robert Cook’s permission, we’re proud to share one of his goals: helping more people commit to adult education and discover what Western Halifax Community Learning Network (WHCLN) has to offer. Last year, he joined a small group at Halifax Central Library to celebrate Adult Learners’ Week, and this year he returned as a speaker—sharing his story to inspire others to take that first step.

At WHCLN, our educators are experienced and passionate about adult learning, recognizing that every learner brings valuable skills, knowledge, and life experience.

Learning as an adult is different—it requires a different approach. That’s why many of our classes focus on practical skills for daily life: using digital tools, communicating with confidence, making decisions, managing finances, and even making healthy food choices.

In a world overflowing with information, our learning space offers something rare: a chance to pause, refocus, and build the skills that matter most to adult learners.

Lesta Armstrong is executive director of the Western Halifax Community Learning Network.

Sharing the news in Hackett’s Cove

In September, the first issue of Hacketts Cove News, which contains stories about a local piano recital, a proposed Hackett’s Cove public park, safety at Peggy’s Cove, and active-transportation construction along Peggy’s Cove Road—as well as a couple of puzzles—was distributed to local residents. The Masthead News invited publisher Nuala MacCormack to share details of her newspaper’s launch.

Nuala MacCormack
I’m a homeschooled child who decided to make a newspaper for my neighbourhood. I started the idea for a newspaper when I made a small family newspaper. I made one copy of the family newspaper, and I did not make it on the computer. I just drew it and wrote it myself.
I wanted to make one for Hackett’s Cove because there is a lot in the neighbourhood that not that many people know about, so

I thought I could spread the word.
For example, I had heard things from my parents and some of my friends in the neighbourhood, like rumors that we were going to get a bike path. I emailed the city council, and they said it was true. We were going to get a paved shoulder for active transportation. I wanted to tell everyone the news and make them excited.
I’m going to make more newspapers. I already started the second one.



Nuala MacCormack is a 10-year-old resident of Hackett’s Cove. Photo credit: Shannon MacCormack

Aw, shucks: Teen entrepreneurs shucking their way to success

The Masthead News Staff



Emily Edison (left) and Sophie Richards say Kiss the Sea Oysters, their mobile oyster-shucking business, is filling a gap in the market--and keeping them very busy.

Started in early 2025 by 16-year-old Bay View High School students Emily Edison and Sophie Richards, Kiss the Sea Oysters is a mobile oyster-shucking business that has, so far, shucked its way through 15 private and corporate events.
“We saw an opportunity in the market,” says Edison. “There

are many oyster lovers out there, but most have never shucked an oyster, so we thought, why not bring the fresh experience to them?”
In addition to running their own business and attending high school, both are involved with sports and fitness, including playing varsity basketball

at Bay View. Despite their busy schedules, the young entrepreneurs are currently working on ways to expand their business.
Richards says, “It’s a lot of work, but it’s rewarding. We’re learning so much about business, customer service, and even ourselves.”

October is German Heritage Month

- Almost 10% of Canadians have German heritage.
- Almost half a million Canadians speak German as a first language or language spoken at home.
- Ethnically German Swiss guards were part of a French expedition in 1604 to start a colony in Acadia, making them the first Germans in what would become Atlantic Canada.
- In the mid-1700s, German Protestants were encouraged by the British government to settle in Nova Scotia, especially in the Lunenburg area.



October 11 is International Day of the Girl Child, a day dedicated to celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide, and reflecting on the challenges they continue to face because of their gender.

Canada led the international effort to establish this day to draw attention to the persistent inequalities and dangers that too many girls face around the world. The United Nations subsequently adopted a resolution to formally recognize this important date.

Scary creatures to haunt Unicorn Theatre—be there or beware!

Iris Elliott

Ghoulies, ghosties, and other scary creatures will be haunting the Unicorn Theatre, just in time for Halloween.
Mr. Napoleon Bonaparte, everyone’s favourite dancing skeleton, invites folks young and old to join him for Unicorn Theatre’s *Ghoulies and Ghosties* Halloween show at 3pm on Saturday, October 25 at the Bay Community Centre, 11 Station Road, Head of St. Margaret’s Bay.
Tickets are \$5 for adults, children, students, and seniors. Children aged 8 and younger

must be accompanied by an adult.
Ghoulies and Ghosties is a (slightly) scary Halloween show consisting of several short, fun plays about Halloween. The show, which runs for 25 to 30 minutes, is suitable for children aged 3 up to about Grade 5 or 6.
Reservations are essential. To book, email the theatre at unicorn.theatre@outlook.com, or call 902-826-1687 and leave a message. Someone will be in touch to confirm the reservation.
Iris Elliott is the artistic director for Unicorn Theatre.



We’re thankful for you

and the community support that goes into making the Bay Treasure Chest so successful



Details at baytreasurechest.ca/play

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Album quilt celebrates St. Margaret’s Bay

Sharon Jessup Joyce

Just over 2 years ago, Seabright resident Louise Mussett put out a call in *The Masthead News* for local quilters to join her in a “fun wintertime project,” to make an album quilt that would depict places in St. Margaret’s Bay.

“This community means a lot to people,” she said in the September 2023 story. “And quilters tend to have a lot of scrap fabric waiting for a purpose.”

Mussett said it would be up to the quilters to decide what to do with the finished quilt, though she wanted a fundraising component to benefit the community. In April 2023, she had raffled off “June’s Quilt,” which was started in 1940 by a friend’s aunt and completed by Mussett. The quilt raised \$1,700 for the St.

Margaret’s Bay Food Bank. Her call for quilters in that Masthead story was answered by eight women, mostly residents of the St. Margaret’s Bay area.

“The finished quilt did take longer than we thought it would,” says Mussett. “But it evolved into an impressive art piece.”

Completed in time to be displayed during this summer’s Peggy’s Cove Area Festival of the Arts Studio Tour, the approximately 48” x 58” (122cm x 147cm) quilt is now waiting for its makers to decide how it can best serve the community—“and be enjoyed by as many people as possible,” says Mussett, who promises to keep us posted in a future Masthead story.



Spot the landmarks: This album quilt, created by nine local quilters, depicts scenes of St. Margaret’s Bay. Photo credit: Mike Tindal

Memory Café: A place of joy, music, and connection

Anne Belliveau

The Memory Café has become a much-anticipated event in our community, bringing joy, music, and connection to people living with dementia and their care partners. After two successful years, we are excited to launch our 2025–2026 series, beginning November 4.

A Memory Café is a welcoming space where participants can enjoy live music, art, and activities in a safe and supportive environment. These gatherings help reduce the isolation that can come with dementia, offering an afternoon filled with smiles, laughter, and friendship.

One participant shared: “The afternoon is joyful, kind, and fun—just people able to be themselves. My husband and I look forward to sharing the afternoon with others on the same journey.”

Each session features local musicians and artists who create a lively, uplifting atmosphere. The singing, conversation,

and sense of community make every café truly special.

All cafés will be held at St. Luke’s United Church, 5374 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, Upper Tantallon.

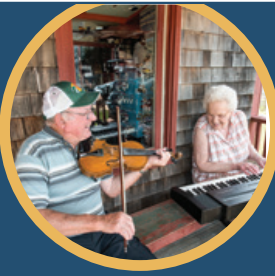
To register for one or all sessions, please contact Rachael Enge at 902-826-2100, extension 3274.

Anne Belliveau is a coordinator of the Memory Café in St. Margaret’s Bay.

Memory Café dates

- November 4, 2025
- December 9, 2025
- January 13, 2026
- February 10, 2026
- April 4, 2026
- May 12, 2026

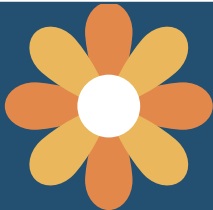
October is Canadian Islamic History Month
Learn more at islamichistorymonth.ca



Seniors Week 2025

Celebrating Aging Well

October 2-9



Seniors Week in Nova Scotia will be celebrated October 2-9. In keeping with the theme of Celebrating Aging Well, Seniors Week is a time to recognize the contributions seniors have made to Nova Scotian communities and showcase the journey of aging well.

For more information and a list of events visit: novascotia.ca/seniors-week



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Continued from page 1
Luncheon—with a slice of one of those pies for dessert.
This year, the new Faerie Trail Society is offering a Fairie Tea on Sunday, October 5, which includes crown-making and wand-making workshops, tea, pink lemonade, and treats. The Fairie Trail itself, which opened earlier this year, is decorated in fall style, with some of the fairie houses even showing off their own miniature scarecrows.
Emma Campbell from Dartmouth and her friend Hailey MacNeil, who now lives in

Moncton, have been coming to the Scarecrow Festival for over a decade.
“I think we were around 11 the first time,” says Campbell. “We came with our moms. And we’ve come most years since—this is my favourite season, and the festival is perfect for it.”
Campbell says she and MacNeil

now make a mini holiday of one of the festival weekends, staying locally and “doing it all.”
Including, she says, a selfie with Taylor Swift.
For more information on Scarecrow Festival events, visit festivalsofmahonebay.com and @festivalsofmahonebay on social media.

Ongoing construction

Visitors are advised that the ongoing construction in Mahone Bay stops during weekends. Expect traffic during weekdays.



Festival volunteers carefully transport a horse scarecrow to a Main Street display with a sunflower vendor scarecrow. Photo credit: Karen Pinsent

Volunteer summit in Bridgewater

Project Volunteer, an inter-municipal partnership in Lunenburg and Queens Counties, is holding Volunteer Summit, taking place Saturday, November 8, 2025, at NSCC Bridgewater.
The one-day event includes interactive workshops, group sessions, a keynote speaker, and networking opportunities. The program includes practical

sessions on recruiting volunteers, fundraising, and grant writing, as well as discussions on diversity and volunteerism in rural communities.
Lunch, refreshments, and a welcome gift are included. Every participant will have a chance to win \$500 to support their organization’s work, with the winner announced during the

closing celebration. The winner must be present to win.
It’s \$15 to register, with some subsidized spots available (please enquire at registration).
Register between October 1 and October 31. Space is limited.
For more information visit modl.ca/volunteersummit. To register, call 902-275-3490 or email recreation@chester.ca

CORRECTION

Raven & Gryphon Fine Books story

In last month’s issue of *The Masthead News*, there was a story about Raven & Gryphon Fine Books, a bookseller located in Hackett’s Cove. To our great regret, the name of the business was incorrect as

published in both the story and in the website name.
Our sincere apologies for the error.
To set up a time to browse the book collection, some of which

is shown below, email info@ravengryphonfinebooks.com or call 902-488-6291. Visit the website at ravengryphonfinebooks.com to learn more and see some of the books currently available to purchase.



Cathy Gaudet, lead organizer for the Mahone Bay Scarecrow Festival, gets one of the scarecrows ready to welcome visitors. Photo credit: Karen Pinsent

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community event listings are free, and published as space permits.
Event notices can be accepted **only** on our Community Event Listing form. Go to **themastheadnews.ca**.

Thursday, October 2

Kids Chocolate Bar Bingo, 6-7pm.
Terence Bay Community Hall, 80 Sandy Cove Road, Ages 4-12, Free admission. More information on Terence Bay Community Hall Facebook page.

Saturday, October 4

Horseshoe Tournament, 11am.
Terence Bay Community Hall, 80 Sandy Cove Road, Adult, Co-Ed. Pre-registration required. Cash bar, BBQ, 50/50., \$5 per player. More information on Terence Bay Community Hall Facebook page.

Adult Dance - Shipwrecked: An evening of nautical nonsense, 8pm-midnight.Terence Bay Community Hall, 80 Sandy Cove Road, Adult dance 19 yrs +. Prizes for best theme-related apparel. Nitelife DJ Services. 50/50 & cash bar. Tickets available online. \$10 per person. More information on Terence Bay Community Hall Facebook page.

St. Luke’s United Church 130th Anniversary Open House, 2-4pm.
St. Luke’s United Church, 5374 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, Upper Tantallon. Drop in to share stories of early life in St. Margaret’s Bay, view memorabilia, and connect with the community celebrating over 130 years of neighbourly support. Free.

Merchandise Bingo, 2–5pm.
Estabrooks Community Hall, 4408 St. Margaret’s Bay Road. An afternoon of bingo, prizes, and community fun. Door books \$6, specials \$5, jackpot \$2. Cash only. Ages 6+ must play with an adult. 50/50 draw and canteen available. Bring new men’s socks for an extra prize draw. Hosted by the Ken Gordon Society. Contact: kengordonsociety@gmail.com, 902-989-3217.

Sunday, October 5

Family Fun Day, 11:30am-2pm.
Terence Bay Community Hall, 80 Sandy Cove Road. Carnival Games, Special Guests, Prizes, Cake Walk, Face Painting and more! Also BBQ & Fun Food (\$). Free admission. More information on Terence Bay Community Hall Facebook page.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Practice, 9:30am -noon.
St. Margarets Bay Shambhala Centre, 13495 Peggy’s Cove Road, Upper Tantallon. Deep relaxation, breath work, sitting and walking meditation, mindful yoga, Qi Gong, and group discussion to reduce stress and promote wellbeing. Free. More information: Tim Walker, 902-476-4097, https://bay.shambhala.org

All Ages Service & Potluck Lunch, 10am.
St. Luke’s United Church, 5374 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, Upper Tantallon. Attend a celebratory service and bring a dish to share (no nuts). Dress like it’s the 1900s. Free.

Monday, October 9

Community Update in Emergency Preparedness & AGM, 7-8pm.
St James Church, 6991 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, Boutilier’s Point. Educational session and annual general meeting for Fire Safe Society of Masons Point (FSSMP), Free, contact Firesafemasonspoint@gmail.com for more information.

Friday, October 10

Fall Concert Solo Soprano, 7-8:30pm.
97 Kaulbach Street, 3rd Floor, Lunenburg Academy, Canadian soprano Lindsay McIntyre presents an unaccompanied vocal programme featuring works by

Schafer, Berio, and Saunders, and her own compositions. Tickets \$25
www.lampns.ca. More information: admin@lampnsns.ca. 902-634-8667.

Saturday, October 11

Book Worm Haven - Used books, 9am-noon. Lower level, St. Peter’s Church, 10030 Peggy’s Cove Road, Hackett’s Cove. Browse through over 5,000 books and puzzles for all ages. Prices are \$2 and \$3. Book Worm Haven is open one Saturday morning each month through the winter (unless there is a wedding or funeral taking place).

Fantastic Grown-Up Book Fair, 10am.
Mahone Bay Centre, 45 School Street, Mahone Bay. Meet local authors, attend free writing workshops, enjoy a reading hour of unpublished works. Supported by the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. Free. More information: Aren Morris arenamorris@gmail.com, 902-222-2552, www.GrownUpBookFair.com

Wednesday, October 15

Fall Concert Chamber Music Festival, 7–8:30pm.
Lunenburg Academy, 97 Kaulbach Street, 3rd Floor. Chamber music featuring cello and piano performance by Leland Ko and Adria Ye, part of the first LAMP Chamber Music Festival. Tickets \$25, available at www.lampns.ca. More information: Linda, admin@lampns.ca, 902-634-8667

Saturday, October 18

Bedford-Hammonds Plains Craft & VendorAll Things Fall Market, 10am–2pm.
St. John's Church, 2187 Larry Uteck Boulevard. 50 local vendors, take-out lunch. Admission \$2, tickets at the door. More information: Sarah Smith, bedfordhpcraftvendormarket@gmail.com

Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, 6:15–8:30pm.
Estabrooks Community Hall, 4408 St. Margaret’s Bay Road. Choose Your Poison, an interactive evening of love, laughter, and murder. Roast beef dinner with strawberry shortcake; vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Ages 16+. \$30 regular meal, \$35 vegetarian/gluten-free. Cash bar and 50/50. Tickets by e-transfer only to kengordonsociety@gmail.com (no door sales). Hosted by Ken Gordon Society. Contact: kengordonsociety@gmail.com, 902-989-3217.

Sunday, October 19

Fall Concert Chamber Music Festival, 2:30-4pm.
Lunenburg Academy, 97 Kaulbach Street, 3rd Floor. Chamber music featuring former and new LAMP residents performing “Last(ing) Words,” with cello, piano, and violin. Doors open at 2:00pm. Tickets \$25, available at www.lampns.ca. More information: Linda, admin@lampns.ca, 902-634-8667.

Ocean Swells Fundraiser: A History of Northwest Cove and the Aspotogan Peninsula, 2:30-3:30pm.
Ocean Swells Community Centre, Highway 329, Northwest Cove. Watch Daryl Gray’s 50-minute interview with the late Professor Alen Wilson, sharing over 60 years of local history. Tea, coffee, and sweets. Donations welcome.

Tuesday, October 21

Free Will Lunch, 11 am-1 pm.
Trinity United Church, 67 Trinity Way, Timberlea. Community lunch supporting the BLT Community

Pantries. Entrance through the front door. Contact: Barb Charteris · bltcommunitypantry@gmail.com, 902-237-5182.

Wednesday, October 22

Fall Concert Chamber Music Festival, 7–8:30pm.
Lunenburg Academy, 97 Kaulbach Street, 3rd Floor. Chamber music featuring former and new LAMP residents performing “Intuition,” with cello, piano, and violin. Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets \$25, available at www.lampns.ca. More information: Linda, admin@lampns.ca, 902-634-8667.

Saturday, October 25

Jazz @ LAMP: Roddy Ellias Trio, 7–8:30pm.
Lunenburg Academy, 97 Kaulbach Street, 3rd Floor. Experience Canadian jazz guitarist Roddy Ellias with an innovative style blending classical, African, Brazilian, and jazz influences, accompanied by bass and drums. Tickets \$35, available at www.lampns.ca. Contact Linda for more information: admin@lampns.ca, 902-634-8667, lampns.ca/concerts

Sunday, October 26

Fall Concert Chamber Music Festival, 2:30–4pm.
Lunenburg Academy, 97 Kaulbach Street, 3rd Floor. Chamber music featuring former and new LAMP residents performing “Shadow Future,” with cello, piano, and violin. Doors open at 2pm. Tickets \$25, available at www.lampns.ca. Contact Linda for more information: admin@lampns.ca, 902-634-8667, www.lampns.ca/concerts

Friday, October 24-Sunday 26

Crossroad Artists Annual Art Show & Sale, St. Luke's United Church, Lower Hall, 5374 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Upper Tantallon, Opening Friday 4-7pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm. Original artwork, art cards and reproductions, free admission.

Thursday, November 6

Program of Remembrance, 10am.
St. Luke’s Parish Hall, 20 Shore Club Road, Hubbard’s. Two Coves Café hosts a program of music and song for Remembrance Day, with coffee, tea, and muffins available by donation. No charge. Contact Clair MacInnis for more information: clairmacinnis@yahoo.ca, 902-670-4411

October–November 2025

Remember When HealthCare Free Workshop Series, Multiple locations: Halifax (Timberlea/Hubley), Bridgewater, Lunenburg, St. Margarets Bay, Hubbard’s, Chester, Mahone Bay. A free four-part workshop series for families covering care options, hospital-to-home transitions, home preparation, and building a support system. Register and find more information at www.rwhc.ca/workshops

Saturday, November 1

Live Auction with 103.5 FM’s Russell McKenzie, 7–10pm.
Estabrooks Community Hall, 4408 St. Margaret’s Bay Road. An evening of auction items, games, and surprises while raising funds to support men struggling with mental health, addictions, homelessness, and more. Hosted by Matthew, 18-year-old founder of The Ken Gordon Society, alongside Russell McKenzie. \$10 at the door. Cash bar. Auction & game payments by cash or EMT; 50/50 cash only. Contact: kengordonsociety@gmail.com, 902-989-3217.

Tantallon Public Library events

Wednesday, October 1

Truth & Reconciliation Day Movie Showing: WaaPaKe (Tomorrow), 5-6:30pm. Documentary, Rated 13+, 2023, 1h 20min, Dr. Jules Arita Koostachin’s deeply personal documentary unravels the tangled threads of silence suffered by residential school Survivors through truth, freedom and power.

Wednesdays, October 1-32

Optimal Aging - 4 Week Series, 10am-noon. This program can help you improve your health behaviours, wellbeing and outlook on aging. Learn how to apply the THRIVE Approach to Wellbeing, which includes six key actions: thoughts, health habits, relationships, interests, valued goals and emotions. In partnership with Community Health Teams. Register at communityhealthteams.ca or call 902-460-4560 ext. 2

Saturday October 4

Weaving 101, 1-4pm. Ages 14+, Join textile artist, Ashley-Rose MacRae, as she demonstrates weaving techniques on a frame loom. You will learn the basics of weaving on a frame loom and create your own small tapestry during this relaxing session. This workshop is intended for those with varying abilities. No experience is required and all materials will be provided. Registration Required. To register, please visit or call the branch at (902) 826-3330.

Tuesday October 7

Be Good To Your Gut, 6-8pm. Did you know that good health starts in your gut? Learn how your digestive system works, the role of your gut bacteria and how to feed your gut for good health. In partnership with Community Health Teams. Register at communityhealthteams.ca or call 902-460-4560 ext. 2

Thursday, October 9

Book Club: Study for Obedience, 1:30-3pm. Join us to explore a variety of fiction in our Book Club series. Each month, we will try a new book from a different genre. No registration required. Simply come by for some literary chat on the second Thursday of every month!

Saturday, October 11

Science Saturday: Ozobot & Codey Rocky Adventure, Ages 5+, 10:15-11:15am. Families and children will use colouring to create paths that take Ozobots on an ocean-themed adventure. Participants will also have the opportunity to drive Codey Rocky or, for those interested, try block-based coding.

Introduction to Beadwork, Ages 12+, 1-4pm. Join us for an afternoon of crafts, culture and community with Angela Negus of Weeping Willow Crafts. Angela will be giving us an introduction to indigenous beadwork and beading. Participants will have the option to create an orange shirt pin, a red dress pin, or a medicine wheel/turtle pin. All necessary materials will be provided. Registration is required. To register, please visit or call the branch at (902) 826-3330.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community event listings are free, and published as space permits.
Event notices can be accepted **only** on our Community Event Listing form. Go to **themastheadnews.ca**.

Tuesday, October 14

Craft & Chat: Book Witches, Adults 2:30-4:30pm. Join us once a month for an afternoon of crafting and chatting! This month we will be making a craft that is sure to get you into the Halloween spirit. Learn how to turn an old paperback book into a cute -or wicked!- Halloween witch. Registration Required. To register, please visit or call the branch at (902) 826-3330.

Saturday, October 18

Puppet Show: The Legend of the Beaver's Tail, All Ages, 10:30-11am. Long ago, Beaver did not look like he does now; his tail was not wide and flat. Beaver was too proud

until eventually his boasting drove away his woodland friends. But when times get tough, Beaver learns to make amends with his friends. Based on an Ojibwe legend. Free tickets given out 30 minutes in advance.

Creepy Crawly Crafting, Adults & Teens Ages 10+, 2:30-4pm, Join us for a fun afternoon of Creepy Crawly Crafting! You'll have the chance to create some beautifully creepy home decor, with faux bugs and butterflies. All supplies are provided. Registration required. To register, please visit or call the branch at (902) 826-3330.

Saturday October 25

Halloween Party, All Ages,

10am-12pm. Stop by our Halloween Party for fun-filled morning of Tricks & Treats! There will be Halloween-themed crafts, activities and prizes. Don't forget to wear your costume!

Ongoing Events

Mondays

Gain Calm and Relief from Stress and Pain with EFT – Tapping, 10:30–11:30am, at FLAR Equine Experience, 3693 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Hubley. Effective help for pain, weight issues, performance improvement, stress, PTSD, anxiety, and grief. Facilitated by Paula Arndt, registered counselling therapist and naturopath. \$20 per session. More information: flar-eal@outlook.com, 902-240-8527.

Wednesdays

Yoga Classes, 6:30-7:30pm, St. Luke's Church, 5374 St. Margaret's Bay Road. \$15 drop-in or \$12/class for package of 4 or more classes. For all yoga abilities. Bring your own mat and cushion. More information: Julie, jordanjulie611@gmail.com, 902-499-8174.

Thursdays

Gain Calm and Relief from Stress and Pain with EFT – Tapping, 10:30–11:30am, at FLAR Equine Experience, 3693 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Hubley. Effective help for pain, weight issues, performance improvement, stress, PTSD, anxiety, and grief. Facilitated by Paula Arndt, registered counselling therapist and naturopath. \$20 per session. More

information: flar-eal@outlook.com, 902-240-8527.

Thursdays

Two Coves Café, 9-11am, St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall, 10 Shore Club Road, Hubbards. Free coffee, tea, muffins (gluten-free options), good company. Open to all, free Wi-Fi and accessibility support.

Fridays

Social Bridge, 1- 4pm St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, 18 Scholars Road Upper Tantallon, Free. Interested in playing Social Bridge with a friendly group of people? All experience levels welcome. More information: Rhonda Booth 902-430-2288, amorris8820@gmail.com.

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We're a weight loss support group that meets Wednesday evenings.

Contact Marjorie @ 902-865-0223 or Charlene @ 902-835-4461 for more info.

Antiques and collectibles

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October 10 is World Sight Day

Learn more: opto.ca/world-sight-day

Kids Weekend Workshop

Does your child enjoy reading, writing, drawing or exploring the library?

E C E / C h i l d & Y o u t h Counsellor offering drop off service, ages 5-8yrs.

Sat 1-4 OR Sun 2-5.

Meet up @Tantallon Public Library. \$50 per day.

Inneradventures@outlook.com to register or inquire.

Community space to rent

1500 sq ft bright, open space newly renovated at SMB Shambhala Centre. To rent to compatible tenant @\$1500/month utilities included. Call 902-823-3377

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Retired? Too much time on your hands?

The Masthead News is looking for people who would like to earn extra income by selling advertising and printing services for our supplement publications. This is a commissioned sales position.

1. Use of own vehicle is required.
 2. Choose your own hours.
 3. No previous sales experience is necessary; you just need to enjoy meeting people.
- Call 902-826-1302 or e-mail info@themastheadnews.ca.



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\$20 for first 25 words, and 20 cents for each added word. Bold or uppercase words 40 cents each. \$12 for box around ad. \$12 for each photo or logo. Add HST to total price. Send text, pictures, phone number to info@themastheadnews.ca or call 902-826-1302



The Municipality of Chester is pleased to announce the opening of its Public Works Depot at 643 Highway 14, Windsor Road. Staff and offices will relocate by September 22.

Public Works Department
902-275-1312 | publicworks@chester.ca

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Large development a concern in rural, ecologically sensitive area

The Municipality of Chester Council is reviewing an application to put as many as 280 individual homes on a 128-acre lot on Highway 329, a proposal that is counter to the Municipal Planning Strategy’s purpose, vision and goals.

The location is 250 metres from the shoreline and 1.8 kilometres from both the Blandford Nature Preserve—a protected area neighbouring the Nature Conservancy of Canada’s Deep Cove Nature Reserve—and the Chester Connector Trail, which leads to the East River protected area.

Beyond potentially disastrous environmental effects, additional concerns are described below:

Given recent drought and dry wells in Chester Village, which resulted in \$44,000 in water distribution, there are serious concerns about whether ensuring that water demand from 600+ additional residents on this lot can be met over the long term without affecting surrounding wells, the aquifer, and the municipality’s coffers.

Highway 329 does not have shoulders, and cyclist safety is already at risk. The Municipal Planning Strategy emphasizes the

importance of residents having access to safe cycling and walking routes, but a proper traffic impact study has not been submitted for this project.

With multiple shared septic tanks on one lot and no backup system, who will bear the risk of sewage overflow in the event of a septic-tank failure?

Clearing 128 acres of trees to build houses on half-acre lots—with concrete foundations, driveways, roads, and walkways—will impact the land’s ability to mitigate stormwater and increase the already high risk of flooding and erosion. Is the municipality

prepared for stormwater management cost increases?

According to the Municipal Planning Strategy, it is the municipality’s responsibility to ensure that infrastructure and municipal services are in place and are adequate to address the needs of the development, before approval. The recently published Municipal Growth Plan states: “...until municipal sewer and water services are provided, it is sensible to restrain higher density developments with the Development Agreement process.”

Those of us who have expressed concerns are not against

development, but it must be done in a way that is sustainable and safe for the community, and reflects the purpose, vision and goals of the Municipal Planning Strategy.

If you’re in agreement with these concerns, please email: ERPChesCommunity@gmail.com. You may also express your concerns to Council directly at: council@chester.ca. To stay informed about this and other municipal issues, register here: engagechester.ca/register.

Carole Stavelly
East River

Protector or promoter?

An expert panel discussed open-net pen salmon feedlots’ environmental impact and the provincial government’s support of their expansion at a Healthy Bays Network (HBN) press conference in Dartmouth on September 10. Lunenburg’s Catherine Collins, co-author of *Salmon Wars*, *The Dark Underbelly of Our Favorite Fish*, hosted.

Third-generation lobsterman Dan Thimot from St. Mary’s Bay likened net pens to “a stadium stuffed with 30,000 people, force fed, and with no washrooms.” He asked why the province supports this out-of-province owned industry, when the profits leave and the excrement stays behind.

Like flow-through tea bags, the pens’ effluent travels many kilometres, “cleaned” by currents

and tides.

By contrast, zero-effluent closed containment salmon aquaculture uses tanks on land purified by man-made circulation and filtration. Nova Scotia is a leader in this technology. While profit margins are slim, this new, antibiotic- and chemical-free product is increasingly available.

The Coastal Classification System (CCS) was also discussed. Panelists suggested it is primarily designed to lure investment.

HBN chair Wendy Watson Smith presented statistics from a recent HBN poll: 88% of respondents supported a total ban of open-net pens. Similar bans have been declared in Chile and Washington State and will soon go into effect in British Columbia.

Liverpool citizens spent years



From left, members of the panel at the Healthy Bays Network media conference: Karen Traversy, former Department of Fisheries and Oceans policy analyst and member, Doelle-Lahey Panel; Catherine Collins, journalist, author, and private investigator of international financial fraud; Wendy Watson Smith, chair, Healthy Bays Network; Daniel Thimot, lobster harvester in Saulnierville; Jamie Simpson, environmental lawyer. Not shown, Stewart Lamont, lobster exporter.

of volunteer effort to prepare for a licensing hearing on a massive open net expansion in their harbour; 80% of the expansion was tabled, and the hearing location was moved to Bridgewater.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) unilaterally overrode 131 citizen letters vehemently opposing a feedlot in Bayswater, on St. Margaret’s Bay, and dismissed documentation

from citizens who substantiated their legal and environmental arguments and detailed lapses in the department’s regulatory enforcement. Despite those submissions, the feedlot’s license was renewed for a full decade.

Panelists asked how the DFA, which simultaneously regulates and promotes, can enforce the law, while selling Nova Scotia as a “no red tape” land of opportunity?

Illustrated by the abrupt cancellation of the Coastal Protection Act, clearcutting on lands slated for protection, and lifting the ban on uranium mining, this province has entered a new and very disturbing era, where social license is ignored and the democratic process is finessed for financial gain.

Geoff Le Boutillier
Glen Haven

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Marathon of Hope a success in Hammonds Plains



Team Forestkids, a daycare group that entered as a team of staff and families in this year's Hammonds Plains Marathon of Hope and raised over \$1,000 of the event's total of \$8,326.

On Sunday September 14, we got to help Terry Fox "Finish It" for the 45th Marathon of Hope in Hammonds Plains. This is the third Terry Fox run

we have hosted in Hammonds Plains, with a record number of participants and largest amount raised this year. A total of 120 people came out to walk/run/

cycle 2k, 4k or 6k in the Highland Park Subdivision. A big thank you to the volunteers and businesses who helped make the event possible,

as well as the participants, who raised \$8,236. Everyone gathered at the Deepwood Baseball field after, for music, coffee and treats, face-painting, a visit with Tinkerbell, and lots of great conversations with neighbours. Terry Fox is a Canadian hero,

and we are honoured to be able to help continue his fight against cancer. See you next year for the 46th Marathon of Hope! Jill and Owen Crowe Hammonds Plains Terry Fox Run organizers

Guidelines for submitting letters to the editor

The Masthead News welcomes letters from our readers on topics of interest to our community members. Letters should be a maximum of 350 words, and must include the writer's name and community. The Masthead News will not publish letters that constitute personal attacks or hate speech. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, and style. Please submit letters to info@themastheadnews.ca. Include a daytime phone number (which will not be published).

Support local growers in tough times

At my local farmers' market, I heard some complaining about the higher prices this year. Well, what do we expect? Your story in last month's paper (The Masthead News, September 2025, p. 2) explained the extra costs farmers have to bear to do the watering Mother Nature didn't do this year. Another thing to consider, and I learned this from a farmer at the market, is that second and third

crops were much smaller this year. Or they didn't happen at all. It's very easy to talk up the value of farmers' markets and buying local when prices are low. It's harder when the growers and sellers are forced to raise their prices some years because of things they can't control. If we don't support them, some may not recover from this bad year to keep going and growing. And then we'll

all pay the price of that, not just in food costs, but in the quality of the food we get, and losing people in our area who will grow food for the benefit of all of us. A year like this, when the prices are higher? That's when we need to put our money where our mouth is. Literally. John MacDonald Hammonds Plains

Young scholars' smiles brighten day

How wonderful to see the 14 smiling faces of the young scholars who received some assistance with their post-secondary education costs from the Bay Treasure Chest's Anne Martell Memorial Scholarship

fund, as described in your newspaper (The Masthead News, September 2025, p. 8). It is very gratifying to know that people can participate in a fundraising program, spending only a little over a hundred

dollars a year, and contribute to such a laudable project. Thank you for sharing that particular "good-news story" with your readers. Helen Fraser Halifax

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Pogo is a 5-year-old beagle with the sweetest heart and a gentle nature. Life hasn't always been easy for him, and he does come with some special medical needs, but what he gives back in love and companionship is priceless. He needs someone committed to following his medical protocols closely and giving him the extra care he needs to thrive: he has

ongoing eye and esophageal issues, takes daily medications, and eats a special diet. He also has some skin sensitivities. (Note that the rescue group may be able to support his new family with some of the costs of his ongoing care.) Pogo is gentle, kind, and happiest when snuggled into a cozy blanket after a nice "sniffari" (his favorite type of walk). Bananas are his snack of choice, and he'll never turn down a quiet afternoon nap by your side. He would do best in a calm, quiet home. He could be an only dog or enjoy the company of another low-key pup. He has some mild separation anxiety but settles as he grows comfortable in his surroundings. For more information or to apply to adopt Pogo, visit misfitmanordogrecue.com/adopt.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 5 - 11, 2025

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Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices we use every day. These batteries store a large amount of energy. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

Safety Tips

- Use devices and accessories listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
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- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire. Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 0°C or above 40°C.
- For e-bikes, charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.
- Stop using batteries if you notice these problems: odour, change in colour, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises.
- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins. Batteries can be safely recycled at our Chester Municipal Office, Adam's Bottle Exchange in Western Shore and at our Kaizer Meadow Landfill. Call 902-275-2330 for more information.

This Fire Prevention message is provided by the Municipality of the District of Chester and your local Fire Departments in Blandford, Chester, Chester Basin, Hubbards, New Ross, Martin's River and Western Shore.

JOIN OUR TEAM. Firefighting and medical first response can be the most fulfilling volunteer decision you can make. There are volunteer positions y available for firefighting personnel, medical responders and other support positions. Contact the Municipal Fire Services Coordinator at 902-277-2577 or your local Fire Department for more information on how you can help your community.

Please visit our Emergency Services Web Site at www.chesterfire.ca for important Fire Prevention and Safety information.

 **THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER**



Chester Volunteer Fire Department gives \$100k for new fire hall



Members of the Chester Volunteer Fire Department and the Chester Fire Services Committee join Chief Cody Stevens as he presents a cheque for \$100,000 to committee chair Colin MacDonald at the site of the new Chester Fire Hall.

From left: Phillip Stevens , Norman Countaway , Willy Rino, Kirk Collicutt, Wilson Fiit, Colin MacDonald , Wayne Payne , Nancy Hatch, Brandon Rafuse, Cody Stevens, Morgan Stevens, Jared MacDonald, Bryan Collicut, Blake Corkum, Daniel Jessome, Emma Demont , Zack Maxkenzie, Nick Hirtle, Doug Morash, Dave Richardson, Chris MacDonald, Duke Chaff.

Chester’s planned new fire hall got a big boost on September 15 with a donation of \$100,000 from the Chester Volunteer Fire Department.

“We’re delighted to be able to provide real support for the fire hall that will keep our members safer as we respond to community emergencies,” the fire department’s chief, Cody Stevens, says. “The new station will allow us to respond more efficiently to emergencies and support our ability to recruit and retain volunteers.”

The 55-person department, which is entirely volunteer, serves an area that stretches from East River to Marriott’s Cove and back to Sherwood. The current hall, built in 1960 and located in the centre of the Village of Chester, is

not large enough to accommodate modern equipment without costly modifications, and does not allow firefighters to decontaminate equipment and clothing adequately.

“The new hall will meet the needs of today’s firefighters and have the technology and physical space to anticipate the demands of the future,” says Colin MacDonald, Chair of the Chester Fire Services Committee. “We want to ensure that our volunteer firefighters have the equipment and safety provisions they need to continue to protect our community.”


Construction of the new fire hall will be managed by the Chester Fire Services Committee, whose members were appointed jointly by the Municipality of the

District of Chester and the Village of Chester. The Committee will issue a request for proposals for final design within the next few weeks, and it is expected that construction will begin in 2026.

The target completion date is the fall of 2027.

Although funding for the new fire hall will be primarily through municipal taxes, the committee is actively seeking support from

other levels of government. Donations from the public are welcome and tax receipts will be issued. At current prices, the estimated cost of the new fire hall is \$20 million.



October is Women’s History Month

In 1992, the Government of Canada designated October as Women’s History Month, marking the beginning of an annual celebration of the outstanding achievements of women and girls throughout Canada’s history.

Learn more at canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/womens-history-month

The Masthead News welcomes high-resolution photographs with brief captions that capture a memorable moment.

Photos must be submitted by or with permission of the photographer. Photos that show a person's face should be submitted with permission to publish from the subject, or their parent or guardian for children aged 15 or younger. Submit your photo and caption to info@themastheadnews.ca. Include your full name and a daytime phone number.

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