

THE MASTHEAD NEWS

themastheadnews.ca



A New Heart for BLT: Community Centre Officially Opens Doors

The Masthead News

After over a decade in the making, the new BLT Community Centre has officially opened. Residents and officials gathered for the ribbon cutting as the long-awaited space opened, with programming already underway and plans for future community initiatives continuing to grow.

Group Photo - Left to right: community coordinators, Nicole Dupuis, Iona Stoddard, John Bignell, and Linda Moxsom Skimmer; MP Lena Metlege Diab, MLA Iain Rankin, Diane (last name unknown), MLA John A. MacDonald, and Councillor Janet Steele; Emma Sypulski (project coordinator), Megan Foran (project manager), John Montgomery (on-site project manager), and Chris Bouey (architect).



The new BLT Community Centre, a long-anticipated project for Beechville, Lakeside, and Timberlea residents, officially opened to the public this past weekend with a ribbon-cutting celebration and open house.

The \$3.3 million facility reflects 13 years of planning, advocacy, and community input. Local residents played a key role in project development, voicing the need for more recreational space and shaping a centre designed with flexibility and community use in mind. The space features a large gymnasium, dance studio, meeting rooms, and casual gathering areas where residents can visit and connect. Computers and a printer, donated by the local library, are also available to help meet everyday needs. Outside, the new splash pad is expected to be popular in the warmer months.

The grand opening drew a strong turnout, with residents joined by local and federal representatives, including MP Lena Metlege Diab, MLA Iain Rankin, MLA John A. MacDonald, and Councillor Janet Steele, all on hand for the ribbon cutting and tours of the new space. Event refreshments were generously donated by Certainly Cinnamon Catering, contributing to the day's welcoming atmosphere.

With growing concern around seasonal weather events and, most recently, the wild-fire in Tantallon, the centre has been designed with emergency readiness incorporated and will operate as a comfort centre during such times.

The community garden will continue offering plots for those interested in growing their own food this season. As programming expands, keep an eye out for garden-to-table initiatives, food preservation workshops, and other future events.

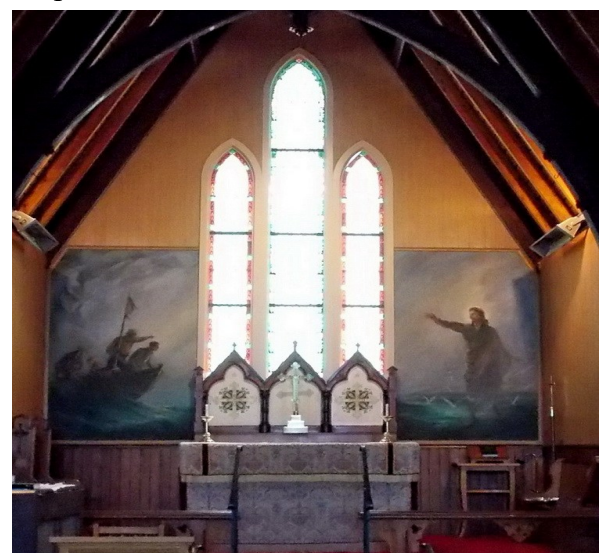
With its doors now open, residents are encouraged to stop by, participate in programming, and share ideas for future activities as the BLT Community Centre begins its next chapter.

Enjoy music and treats on Mother's Day weekend.

Fred Dolbel

Looking for a unique and fun way to spend time with Mom on Mother's Day weekend? Peggy's Cove is the place to be on the afternoon of Saturday, May 9, to enjoy a singalong at the historic church and pick up some tasty treats at a bake sale behind the Sou'Wester Restaurant. **See story on page 8.**

The beautiful William deGarthe murals located behind the altar, are a special feature of the historic Peggy's Cove Church.



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Authorized by the official agent for CSM

Timberlea Jam Session brings musical joy to our area! *Tam Hill*

Do you love playing or singing traditional foot-tapping Celtic and old-time music? Do you dislike driving to Halifax or Bedford in the dark to find it? Being a senior, I don't want that commute, and it's lonely playing along with YouTube. So, I have started the Timberlea Jam Session to bring the music to us on weekend afternoons.

We are a group of around 40 players and singers, with roughly a dozen of us regularly attending monthly sessions. We meet in the downstairs hall of Trinity United Church, 67 Trinity Way, Timberlea. Upcoming sessions will be on May 24th from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm and June 28th during the same time.

Our Sessions: Our free, traditional fiddle tune sessions welcome players of all ages and skill levels, on all acoustic instruments, along with listeners and dancers. This is an easy session with tune names and keys announced, and tune books available with sheet music, guitar chords, and lyrics. At sessions, we play the tunes we have been practicing. Halfway through, there is a snack break to make friends and informally jam. After our practiced tunes, we go around the circle choosing tunes to lead or introducing new ones.

Need Singers: Around one-third of our tunes involve singing, which we need a few more good singers for.

Funding: We need funding for amplification equipment, monthly hall rent, and insurance. MLA Rick Burns and Councillor Janet Steele have generously supported these costs, and MLA Iain Rankin will donate soon.

Email us: Join our email list and receive a list of tunes by emailing Tam Hill: tam.hill2014@gmail.com. For a tune book, email Dave Fullerton: dave@lighthouselegalsoftware.com.

Players and singers are already benefitting from the Timberlea Jam Session. Join us in keeping traditional music alive!



Some of our session players. Top row, left to right: Brian Barrie, Cecily Barrie, Starla Burns, Dave Fullerton, Rene Scrutton, Amy Swenson, Rhodes Kellegrew, Robert-Yves Mazerolle, Frank MacGillivray. Bottom row, left to right: Tam Hill, Maeghan Harned, Jacqueline Petitpas. Photo credit: Charlene Goguen

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination."

— Plato

Mother's Day Sunday, May 10th

Mother's day doesn't have to be over-the-top to be meaningful—especially here in Nova Scotia, where some of the best moments are the simplest ones.

If the weather cooperates, a walk along the waterfront in Halifax is always a win. Grab a coffee, wander the boardwalk, maybe pop into a few local shops, and just enjoy the time together without rushing. If your mom loves the ocean, even a short drive out to Peggy's Cove can turn into a really special afternoon—Fresh air, waves and a

If your mom enjoys a bit of pampering, booking a local spa treatment or even just doing an at-home spa day can go a long way. Face masks, a glass of wine, and zero responsibilities for the day? That's a gift in itself. And honestly, one of the most appreciated things you can do is keep it personal. Cook her dinner, go through old photo albums, or write her a heartfelt card. It doesn't have to cost much—what matters most is the time and thought behind it. At the end of the day, Mother's Day here isn't about big plans—it's about slowing down and making her feel appreciated in a way that feels real.

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Photo credit: Mahone Bay Museum

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Councillor Janet Steele

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"A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's."

— Princess Diana



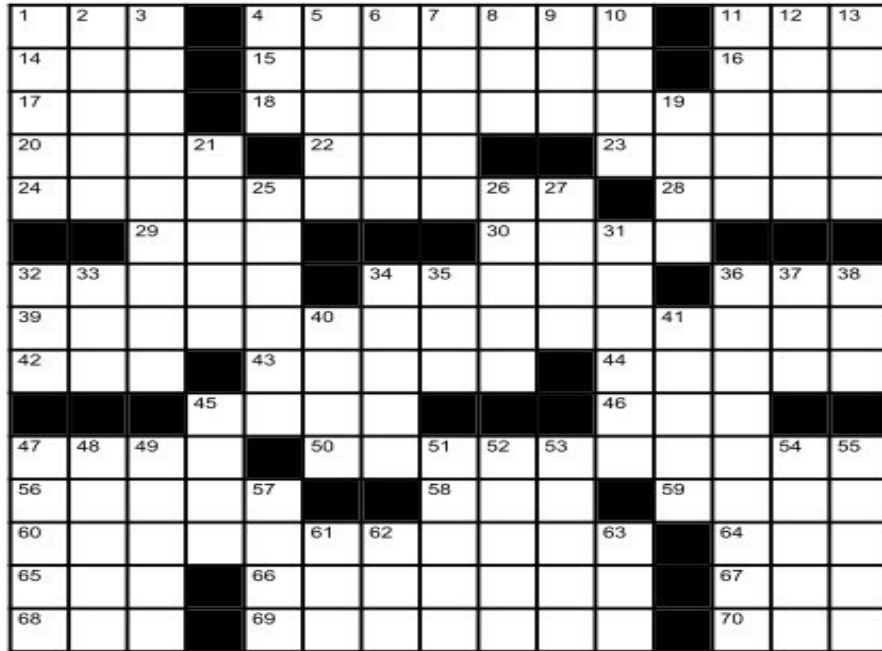
It's a Green Light Barbara Olson ©ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Moe's or Kelsey's, on TV
- 4 Pure sugar, to a chemist
- 11 "Don't know yet," on a TV guide
- 14 It's panned in Panama
- 15 Prom night dates
- 16 Stayed out of sight
- 17 Pirate's quaff
- 18 Shipment of fur coats and caviar, say?
- 20 Four-line rhyme scheme
- 22 Wood shed item
- 23 Ask too many questions
- 24 Verbal come-ons during a dance that "takes two"?
- 28 Auto's "owie"
- 29 Lon ___ of Cambodia
- 30 Mil. top officers
- 32 It was drawn by Zorro
- 34 Backwater buildup
- 36 U.S. cinematographer's org.
- 39 Why a certain tropical fruit is favoured over the others?
- 42 Mad cow disease, for short
- 43 Juno winning Jann
- 44 "Friday the 13th" doll
- 45 Whodunit ID swabs
- 46 Bear, in Barcelona
- 47 "Fernando" foursome
- 50 Wacky version of a card dauber's game?
- 56 Bench clearer
- 58 Prefix meaning "new"
- 59 Window ledge
- 60 Cruise for Cuban drum players?
- 64 In need of cheering up
- 65 Murmur detector, for short
- 66 Add up once more
- 67 Angular opening?
- 68 Engaging response?
- 69 "Clair de Lune" composer
- 70 "Get it?"

Down

- 1 Movie character who wore a "mankini"
- 2 Island in The Beach Boys' "Kokomo"
- 3 Schnozz with an arched bridge



- 4 NaCl, in Québec
- 5 Regular's order, with "the"
- 6 221, in Ancient Rome
- 7 Site of Joan of Arc's demise
- 8 Ex-Bruin from Parry Sound, Ont.
- 9 Porcine pad
- 10 Exit-full-screen keys
- 11 Painful spasm
- 12 Really into
- 13 Accept, as a motion
- 19 No ifs, ___ or buts
- 21 "Open spaces" prefix for phobia
- 25 River through Lethbridge, Alta.
- 26 Have ___ one's face
- 27 Mediterranean and Caspian
- 31 Résumé sender's goal
- 32 Sis or bro
- 33 Birth stats: Abbr
- 34 ___ on (yada yada)
- 35 Size at Mr. Big & Tall: Abbr.
- 36 Some fire insurance fraudsters
- 37 Start to pitch?
- 38 Made in this ctry.
- 40 Shrinking saltwater sea
- 41 Relief for a thirsty camel
- 45 "Hi and Lois" pooch
- 47 "___ Road" (Beatles album)
- 48 Cents-less?
- 49 Mop top feature
- 51 Heart hit "Crazy ___"
- 52 Iceless drink orders
- 53 Hatha and others
- 54 Night driver's hazard, at times
- 55 '80s song, to a millennial
- 57 ___ Farquaad of "Shrek"
- 61 Flying flock formation
- 62 Horse bettor's hangout, briefly
- 63 TV Tarzan player Ron ___

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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Weekdays

April 6—June 29 Open House Mondays—Meditation & Discussion Series 7:30-9pm

St. Margrets Bay Shambhala Centre, 13495 Peggy's Cove Rd, Upper Tantallon Weekly open house with rotating themes. Easy to understand presentations, no meditation experience necessary. Free and open to all. Contact Margaret Jones Callahan at mjelln@gmail.com or 902-329-9930. Visit bay.shabhala.org

**Tuesday, June 2
Free Inclusive Customer Service Training for Local Businesses**

9:30am-12:30pm. Hubbards Barn, Hubbards. Interactive workshop focused on 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion and practical customer service skills. Learn inclusive language, how to navigate real-life situations, and create welcoming spaces. Includes hands-on activities, refreshments,

**Wednesday, May 6
Annual General Meeting**

6pm-7pm. Mahone Bay Community Center, Hennigar Room, 45 School St., Mahone Bay. Annual General Meeting open to members of the Mahone Bay Area Food Bank Association and any interested members of the public to learn more and participate in discussions. Free.

**Thursday, May 21
Noteworthy Community Chorus Concert**

7pm. St. Timothy's Anglican Church, 2320 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake. Enjoy an evening of choral music performed by the Noteworthy Community Chorus. Advance tickets available from chorus members, with additional tickets sold at the door (cash only). \$10 (under 12), \$15 (12+). Contact: noteworthy.brookside@gmail.com

Friday

**Friday, May 8
Canadian Immigrant Newcomer Fair**
10am-3pm. Canadian Museum of Immigration, Pier 21, 1055 Marginal Rd. This free event connects newcomers with employers, service providers, and community resources, offering support for settlement, career development, and building connections in the Halifax area. Free admission.

**Friday, May 15
Paul Buchanan & His 'So-Called' Friends – Mahone Bay Legion Social**
8pm. Royal Canadian Legion, Mahone Bay. Enjoy a live performance from Paul Buchanan & His 'So-Called' Friends featuring Jarvis Mushka, Rick Marchand, and Rob Gooding in their only Legion show of the season. \$10 cover, \$5 for members. Contact venue for details.

**Friday, May 29
Bay View High School Live & Silent Auction**

7pm-10pm. The Links at Brunello, 120 Brunello Blvd., Timberlea. Enjoy an evening of live and silent auctions in support of Bay View High School's gym revitalization project, including new bleachers, fresh paint, and facility upgrades. \$26.50. Contact: kedison14@gmail.com, 902-478-1433

**Friday, June 5 & Saturday, June 6
Yard and Bake Sale**

8:30am-1pm. St. James United Church, 1078 Prospect Road, Goodwood. Browse a variety of yard sale items and enjoy a selection of homemade baked goods in a welcoming community atmosphere. Free admission. Contact: [Susie Moffat](mailto:twmoffat@ns.sympatico.ca), 902-499-8981

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Announced in Prime Minister Mark Carney's statement on March 31st, the Federal Liberals have committed to "Invest in Canada's wild Atlantic Salmon strategy, backed by more than \$80 million, to stabilize and rebuild habitats."

Bravo! What is at odds with this good news, however, is the determination of Tim Houston's government to continue allowing Cooke Aquaculture's expansion of Open Net Fish Farms throughout the province, and specifically, their operation off Saddle Island in Bayswater, Nova Scotia. The Provincial Conservatives' actions are counter productive to the Federal Liberals' generous and necessary step in the stewardship of our coastal waters. Additionally, when you write to the Premier, the Minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries, and the Minister of the Environment, you are sure to receive a reply stating that these decisions are not of their doing but instead reside with the Aquaculture Review Board. May I remind Premier Houston and the MLAs cited above that they are elected to act in the best interests of the province and their constituents. They are also responsible for making the tough decisions. Is it perhaps time to examine the need for having the ARB at all? Eliminating it would even help to reduce the provincial deficit, as members of the ARB are remunerated and it seems that the only entity to benefit from their work is Cooke Aquaculture, based out of New Brunswick.

Linda Carter
Blandford, NS

Egg Hunt Contest Winner Announced

Thank you to everyone who took part in our April Egg Hunt Contest! We loved seeing all the entries come in from across the community. After a fun and competitive search, the winning number was 56, with Paula Bremner coming in as the winner. Congratulations, Paula, and thank you to all who participated, we appreciate your support and look forward to running more community contests in future issues.



**Friday, June 5 & Saturday, June 6
Yard and Plant Sale**
8:30am-1pm. St. Timothy's Anglican Church, 2320 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake. Browse a selection of yard sale items and a variety of plants, perfect for gardeners and bargain hunters alike in a friendly community setting. Free admission. Contact: Dawn Purcell, dawnapurcell@gmail.com, 902-580-6825

**Saturday, May 16
Plant Giveaway**
9am-12pm. St. James' Yellow Church, 6991 St. Margaret's Bay Rd, Boutilier's Point. Stop by to pick up a variety of plants while supporting local community youth activities through a freewill offering. A great opportunity for gardeners to share and connect. Freewill offering.

**Saturday May 30
Mahone Bay Garden Club Plant Sale**
9am, St James Anglican Church Parish Hall 14 Parish St, Mahone Bay, featuring quality plants from members' gardens, rain or shine, the best selection as we sell out fast.

**Saturday, May 30
Bedford-Hammonds Plains Craft & Vendor May Market**
10am-2pm. St. John's Church, 2187 Larry Uteck Boulevard. Browse over 45 local vendors offering crafts, art, gifts, home décor, self-care items, and sweets. Take-out lunch will be available from the church kitchen. \$2 admission. Contact: bedfordhpcraftvendor-market@gmail.com

**Saturday, June 6
Yard and Craft Sale**
10am-2pm. Terence Bay Community Hall, 80 Sandy Cove Road, Terence Bay. Browse a variety of yard sale items and handmade crafts from local vendors, with something for everyone to discover in a welcoming community setting. Free admission. Contact: [Kelly Ashford](mailto:kellyashford@gmail.com), 902-223-6289

Sunday

**Sunday, May 24
Rosie the Red Bee Book Launch**
2pm-4pm. Labour Day Picnic, 12286 Peggy's Cove Rd, Glen Haven. Join the launch of *Rosie the Red Bee* during a community picnic, with an opportunity to celebrate the book and connect with others in a relaxed outdoor setting. Free.

Visit our website for more upcoming events!

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ART SHOW INSPIRES! *Jan Shilleto*

These proudly Canadian Artscape artists have been busy creating new artwork for the 26th Annual Show and Sale at St. Luke's United Church Hall in Tantallon. To be held on the last weekend of June, the 27th and 28th, the Show and Sale will include recently created original works, encompassing a variety of fantastic paintings by nine local artists. They are thrilled to invite you to visit the Show and Sale and take a look.

The paintings in will display many styles, subjects, techniques, and mediums for viewers to engage and connect with. Each artist is unique with an individual expression, and the paintings represent personal creative journeys and explorations. To learn more, the artists encourage visitors to come see and chat with them about their work.



Artscape Members, left to right: Sarah Archibald, Barbara Scott, Lesley Tulloch, Bev Hubley, John MacManus, and Jan Shilleto. Off painting are Nelson Hubley, Barbara King, and Laurie Omstead.

We are confident that these works of art will draw in and speak to those who attend the Show and Sale, and it is possible that they may surprise and fascinate. There will be something for everyone. There will be an opening meet and greet reception from 6 pm to 8 pm on Friday, June 26th.

Show and Sale hours are Saturday and Sunday, June 27th and 28th, from 10 am to 5 pm. As with other years, Artscape welcomes donations to the food bank, which entitles an entry to a draw for an original painting by one of the exhibiting artists. The location will be highly visible with display boards leading to St. Luke's United Church Hall, 5374 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Tantallon.

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." — Pablo Picasso

Deadline for June Issue May 18th 2026



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Photo: L-R Cst. Matthews, Cpl. Adams, Cst. Wagner. Missing from photo: Cst. Gupta

The RCMP Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea (BLT) Community Policing Office is proud to introduce its team of dedicated officers committed to proactive, relationship-focused policing and community partnership.

“Community policing is about being present, listening, and working together to address local priorities,” says **Cpl. Laura Adams**, who brings nearly 19 years of RCMP service, including experience across Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. “I’m looking forward to working closely with residents and community partners to foster trust, open communication, and collaboration while supporting initiatives that enhance community safety and well-being.”

Cst. Geoff Matthews, a seven-year member, values approachability and engagement. “When community members feel comfortable sharing their priorities with us, it allows us to be more effective and proactive,” he said. “Understanding what matters most to the community helps guide where we focus our presence. Building relationships, especially with youth, is one of the most rewarding aspects of this role.”

With nearly 19 years of service, **Cst. Dave Wagner** highlighted the importance of long-term partnerships and early intervention: “Community policing allows us to work collaboratively with residents, businesses, and local partners to address concerns before they escalate. I’m proud to continue serving the BLT area and contributing to a safe, connected, and resilient community.”

Cst. Melissa Gupta joined the team after serving eight years in Lunenburg County. “I’m really looking forward to meeting more of the community and getting to know the people who live and work here,” she says. “One of the things I value most about community policing is listening to what matters most to residents and finding solutions together. I’m excited to work alongside the community to help ensure BLT continues to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone.” Outside of work, Cst. Gupta compassionately volunteers at local shelters.

Two additional officers will be arriving soon, bringing the complement of community officers to six. The officers will be based out of the Tantalion RCMP Detachment until permanent space is secured.

The BLT Community Policing team remains committed to visible presence, meaningful engagement, and collaborative problem-solving to support a safe, vibrant community.



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Stranger Danger Safety Tips

With spring in full swing, our school children are out and about more, and it’s a good time to have meaningful talks around “stranger danger.” Unfortunately, it’s that time of year when local RCMP start receiving more reports about our children being approached by strangers and suspicious incidents, yes, even in the Bay and surrounding communities. The good news is residents are encouraged to report all incidents they believe to be suspicious by calling the **non-emergency number 902-490-5020**. But if you believe someone is in danger, don’t hesitate to call **911**. Local police emphasize the importance of calling a suspicious person in and having them investigated rather than making the call after someone has taken a child.



If you see a suspicious vehicle parked on the side of the road or driving back and forth on the road, you might want to call the non-emergency line. When at playgrounds and activity centres, look at who’s around. Is someone there without children- do they appear suspicious? You may think there’s nothing criminal in nature, but it could be someone who’s trying to hide their identity and/or could be breaching their legal conditions, so it’s important to follow up on all incidents and have those individuals identified before an incident may occur. **Have a plan** and let your child know who is going to pick them up at a certain time and place, and don’t go with anyone else. Let your child know that if the family member doesn’t show up on time, your child should call a family member or stay with a close friend until they are safely picked up. You might also consider planning a buddy system and establishing boundaries so your child knows it’s “OK” should something strange occur to “walk away and report something to an adult immediately”.

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Local Business Impacts Community with Second Annual Fundraiser RL MUIR

When Jamie Gray arrived to open Lunenburg Community Consignment (LCC) last Thursday, he found a box marked “Donations for Annual Fundraiser” on the steps. Inside, he found many pre-loved items, such as beautiful frames, pottery, and glassware, all from the local community in support of his second annual fundraiser and awareness event for Ovarian Cancer Canada and Lunenburg’s Second Story Women’s Centre (SSWC).

In 2025, after LCC raised over \$1000 in its first fundraiser, store volunteers at LCC encouraged Gray to make the fundraiser annual. Support from the local community, in the form of pre-loved items for selling, has been overwhelming. LCC regulars know that there will be many unique items for sale at the fundraiser, including art, furniture, and more.

Referring to the store’s “butterfly effect”, LCC chose a butterfly as the fundraiser logo. Just like a butterfly, a flutter of wings may seem insignificant, but it can create a widespread impact.



LCC volunteers, Jan Stanford, Lynn Mowbray, and Susan Macmillan, with a photo of Col. Cheryl Lamerson in the background. Photo credit:



Jamie Gray, LCC, and Rachael Schwartz, SSWC. Photo credit: Dylan Wells

When opening LCC 14 years ago, founder Col. Cheryl Lamerson imagined it as a vibrant activity hub, selling gently used items, donating proceeds to local charities, and welcoming volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. 70 dedicated volunteers, who choose which charities and art groups LCC supports, continue to stay involved! To date, LCC has donated over \$243,000.

Upon Lamerson’s ovarian cancer diagnosis in 2023, she entrusted Jamie Gray to continue her legacy. Choosing to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Canada and SSWC honours “Cheryl’s humanitarian vision, as well as the contribution of several other volunteers,” Gray said.

Expressing SSWC’s gratitude for the fundraiser, Executive Director, Steph Balcome says, “Initiatives like this fundraiser not only provide vital support to Second Story Women’s Centre but also help raise awareness about issues that impact so many lives.” For more information on their programs, please visit www.secondstory.ca.

Starting May 15th, you can purchase fundraiser items at LCC, Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm. For information, contact Lunenburg.Community.Consignment@gmail.com, or visit the store at 121 Pelham Street, Lunenburg.

What we're Reading Books by local authors

Seabright-Based Mystery Author Shortlisted for 2026 Toby Award

The recently announced 2026 Toby Award shortlist includes *The Pet-Sit* by Carol Moreira, a talented Seabright, Nova Scotia community member.

Set in Portsmouth, England, *The Pet-Sit* tells the story of a private investigator searching for a woman who went missing from the town years before. A riveting tale, *The Pet-Sit* moves beyond a simple missing person’s case by exploring themes of abuse, trauma, and payback, while also centering healing and second chances.

Established by author and ReBound Press founder, Peggy Blair, and sponsored by ReBound Press and Ottawa philanthropist, Barbara Crook, the Toby Award celebrates the talent of self-published Canadian mystery writers. The second annual Toby Award winner will be announced at the Rideau Lakes-Portland Library on May 24th, 2026. All shortlisted authors are invited to publish an original short story in the ReBound Press-published anthology, *Crime for the Cottage*.



For more information, including a full list of shortlisted authors, please visit: <https://tobyaward.wordpress.com/>

Congratulations, Carol!



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Story continued: Enjoy music and treats in Peggy's Cove on Mother's Day weekend



Sheila and Roger Crooks, members of the Peggy's Cove Church, say the church is a special place to enjoy music. Community members are

Come to Singalong Saturday at 2pm at the Peggy's Cove Church, to enjoy two hours of singing, fun, and laughter. A group of four mothers who met playing hockey will lead a community singalong, including some old favourites, with a mix of performance and audience participation.

The Peggy's Cove Church is a special place to enjoy music. Constructed in 1883 by shipbuilders, the ceiling follows the lines of the hull of a ship.

"The acoustics are excellent," says Roger Crooks, who plays the guitar and is a member of that church.

"And anyone who attends the singalong will have an opportunity to enjoy the two beautiful William deGarthe murals behind the altar," adds his wife, Sheila.

"Everyone is welcome," says Eliza Manuel, who organized the singalong. "The afternoon is bound to put a smile on your face."

Donations at the door of non-perishable food items for the St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank would be greatly appreciated.

The Peggy's Cove Church Heritage Fund is also offering a bake sale that day, 1-3pm—or while quantities last—at 178 Peggy's Point Road, at the top of the parking lot behind the Sou'Wester. Proceeds from the sale will go to support the restoration of the Peggy's Cove Church.

"If you're a baker, we would love to add your contribution to the table," says Judy Dauphinee, bake sale organizer.

Donated baked items, with the name of the product and the suggested price, can be dropped off at the Sou'Wester Restaurant on Friday, May 8, between 6 and 7 pm, or on Saturday, May 9, between 11am and noon. For more information about either event, please call 902-499-8973 or email pegycovechurch@gmail.com

Bay Seniors Flea Market offers lots of treasures at great prices *The Masthead News*

When Bay Seniors put out a call last month for donated items for its May 9 fundraising flea market, the association's members responded generously. Donations included dishes, glassware, bakeware, tools, sports equipment, games, puzzles, toys, art, décor items, and much, much more. And some of those items are fascinatingly rare. For example, there's a set of eight Chinese miniature jade drinking glasses in their original wooden presentation box, along with a card explaining traditions around the set.

There's also a framed picture of a bouquet of flowers made from shells, which took first prize in the 1950s at the Canadian National Exhibition for artist Annie Black. An undated yellowed newspaper clipping, carefully preserved in an envelope on the back of the picture, shares information about the artist, who made over 1,000 shell pictures and died in 1958.



A huge variety of donations offers something for everyone, with all items priced to sell.



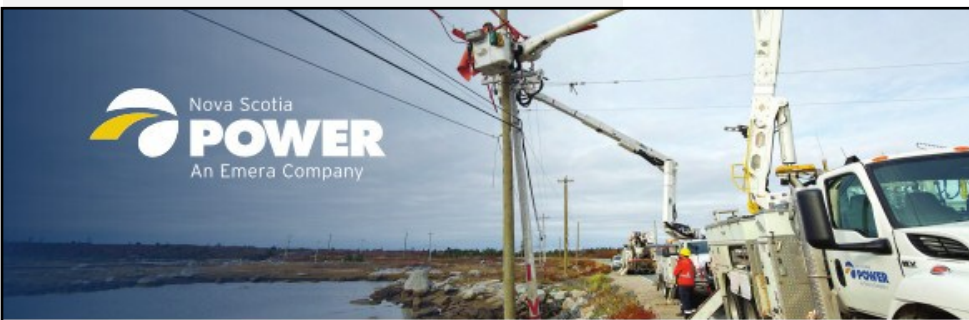
A set of jade glasses from China and a prize-winning framed piece of shell art are among the more unusual items for sale at the Bay Seniors Flea Market.

"We always enjoy seeing unique items," says Pat Rodee, president of Bay Seniors and a member of its flea market organizing committee. "Most donations are practical items, of course, like tools, sleeping bags, quilts, sets of dishes—even a complete set of drawer pulls and cupboard handles from a couple redoing their kitchen."

There will also be new sewn items, including BBQ aprons, wine-bottle holders and more, made by the Bay Seniors sewing volunteers from donated fabric. Those things, says Rodee, make perfect Mother's Day gifts. Hot dogs and popcorn are available at the event, and there's a bake sale with tasty items to take home. All proceeds go to support the programs and services offered by Bay Seniors, with one exception. The Bay Seniors Saturday Sparkle fundraiser, which sells donated jewellery to benefit the St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank, will be there with a tableful of treasures.

You can see a tiny taste of items for sale on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bayseniors.

The Bay Seniors Flea Market is on Saturday, May 9, 10am-2pm, at the St. Margaret's Bay (Seabright) Legion #116, 11169 Peggy's Cove Road, Seabright. Doors open at 10am sharp.



A Letter to our Customers in Peggy's Cove & Surrounding Areas

Thank you to our customers and to HRM District 13 Councillor Nancy Hartling for sharing some time with us at the recent Community Reliability Meeting at the St. Margaret's Sailing Club on April 7, 2026. We appreciated the conversation and thoughtful questions about power service in your area. Common themes included tree trimming, working with landowners, and the order of restoration during power outages. We also heard feedback on the importance of coordinating with Emergency Management and regional offices to identify when comfort centres should be set up during large storms. The meeting also provided an opportunity for our Reliability team to share updates on work to improve power service and gather feedback for future planning.

Completed Reliability Work

Over the last five years we have invested \$1.62 million in work to improve reliability for customers in the Peggy's Cove area. The majority of this work has been targeted at vegetation management - clearing trees and branches from both the transmission and distribution power lines. This is a long, rural power line that is exposed to rough conditions given its proximity to the Atlantic Coast.

- **2021-2025:** Transmission & Distribution Tree Trimming - \$1.56 million
- **2025:** Distribution System Equipment Upgrades - \$56,000
- **TOTAL: \$1.62 million**

Planned Reliability Work

Over the next two years, an additional \$6.1 million will be invested to support population growth in the area. This includes installing a new circuit (double circuit power lines) at the Upper Tantallon end of the Peggy's Cove Road to help serve increasing demand from Tantallon to East Dover; as well as replacing the substation transformer this year at Tidewater, the station at the head of St. Margaret's Bay. These upgrades will improve reliability of service for all customers we serve in this area.

- **2026:** Tidewater Hydro Facility upgrades - \$100,000
- **2026-2027:** New Double Circuit Power Lines, Peggy's Cove Rd to support growth - \$1.9 million
- **2026-27:** Tidewater Substation Transformer Replacement (2026) and new Tidewater Substation (2027) - \$4.1 million
- **TOTAL: \$6.1 million**

Our Five-Year Reliability Plan (2025-2029)

We are in year two of our reliability plan which will see us invest \$1.3 billion to continue to strengthen the electricity grid. This includes investing an average of \$250 million in projects across Nova Scotia each year, installing protective devices, upgrading lines, replacing poles and transformers and clearing more trees and branches from power lines to reduce outages. Our investment in tree trimming has grown steadily - from \$25 million in 2022 to \$32 million in 2023, and now \$45 million each year since 2024.

Community Engagement

We value these community conversations and hope you find them just as beneficial. We want you to feel informed about the work happening in your area and we are committed to making sure you have service you can count on. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Reliability Advisor, Andrea McQuillin, with any other questions you may have: andrea.mcquillin@nspower.ca

Keith O'Callaghan
Senior Manager, Reliability Work Execution, Nova Scotia Power

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Gardening 2026

Growing potatoes in Nova Scotia *Ron Driskill*

Potatoes are perfect for growing from “seed” in Nova Scotia. Almost any variety will do well if they are given enough water and fertilizer.

“Seed” means potatoes that you have cut up with at least one “eye” on each piece. The eye is an embryonic shoot, called an axillary bud.

If the potato has begun to sprout in storage, the eyes can be seen more easily. It’s from the eyes that the new stems and eventually the leaves emerge. Tubers (or potatoes) grow from the stems. Depending on the size of the potato, two or three pieces with at least one eye will do when planting. Before putting your potatoes into the ground, dig a hole about 15 cm (6”) deep and sprinkle it with a powdered fertilizer that has a 6-12-12 ratio, as stated on the bag or box.

I find that a handful of this kind of fertilizer is generally enough to give the potatoes the boost they need.

Cover the fertilizer with about 2-3 cm (1”) of soil, and then put the cut potatoes into the hole. Each hole should be 30-38 cm (12-15”) apart.

By the time the potatoes have started to form roots, the fertilizer will have dissolved into the ground to be used as nutrients.

Supplement rainfall with a sprinkler and hose as needed, especially during the summer, when rainfall is less frequent.



The 6-12-12 ratio gives you nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, but in order to make sure your potatoes have all the nutrients they need, use RX-15 at least once every two weeks.

RX-15 is a powdered fertilizer that dissolves in water, so that when you douse your growing potato plants with this solution, they will get all the trace elements they need.

During the growing season, rake soil around the stems of the plants, keeping only a few leaves exposed to the sun. Keep this up until the foliage begins to yellow.

Mounding, which is what this process is sometimes called, allows more potatoes to grow from your stems. But it also requires a lot of space, so leave your rows 1.5 m (5’) apart. If your garden plot is small, you can get away with a little more than a metre (3’) apart.

All you need is just enough soil to keep the potatoes from growing above the ground and turning green. If they do turn green, the potato will become toxic.

Common potatoes are Norland, Pontiac, Yukon Gold, Kennebec, Irish Cobbler, Chieftain, Viking, and Russet. So-called new (small) potatoes from all the above, except

Kennebec and Russet, can be harvested 7 to 8 weeks after planting. Just put your hands under the plants and remove the number of potatoes you want.

Varieties are mature when the leaves turn brown. They should then be dug up and stored away in a cool, dark, dry place. Other people grow potatoes successfully under mulch they

have made or bought.

Weeding every one to two weeks will help to keep weeds and grass under control.

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Obituary

Sadly, Mum passed away unexpectedly on April 3, 2026 - Mum had her loving daughter by her side

Mum was born on August 12, 1936, in Stoke-On-Trent, England, to Arthur and Betty Bagley

Mum was predeceased by Dad, Frank Maitland, to whom Mum was married for 69 years.

Mum will be forever missed by her three children, Steven(Jean), Andrew (Karen), and Kelly (Andrew), nine grandchildren, Craig, David, Alexandra, Andrew, Devon, Michaela, Marco, Nico, and Ryan, and eight great-grandchildren, Emerson, Parker, Nolan, Mila, Taylor, Colt, Malcolm, and Carmen.

Mum and Dad arrived in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1960 and then moved to Queensland, Nova Scotia, in 1976.

Mum lived a full life, travelling with Dad throughout Europe and visiting Egypt.

Mum was a force to be reckoned with and met every challenge head-on. As a young woman in England, Mum was an accomplished pianist, tennis player, and loved dancing.

Mum had a vibrant career with the CRA during which time she went to St. Mary's University and

After retirement, Mum and Dad returned to England for three years to look after her father

They moved back to Nova Scotia in 2007 and lived in Glen Margaret.

There will be a celebration of life for Mum at the Seabright Legion Branch 116 on May 9, 2026, at 6 pm

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Canadian Cancer Society

Jean Maitland



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She was a Director on the Learning Network Board, enjoyed her book club involvement, and seldom missed a meeting of Embers (a group of retired teachers).

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