

Media Scan

Wednesday October 14, 2020

[Leo Glavine appointed health minister in N.S. cabinet shuffle](#)

Premier Stephen McNeil filled three vacant cabinet positions on Tuesday with Leo Glavine taking over as health minister. Glavine leaves his post as communities, culture and heritage minister for his new job, a portfolio he previously had from 2014 to 2017. Lunenburg MLA Suzanne Lohnes-Croft will take over as communities, culture and heritage minister and minister of Gaelic affairs. Lena Metlege Diab, the minister of immigration, Acadian affairs and Francophonie, will also take over as labour and advanced education minister. Energy and Mines Minister Derek Mombourquette also becomes minister of the Department of Lands and Forestry.

[N.S. won't provide detailed project list for \\$228M stimulus program](#)

The McNeil government is refusing to provide specific details about how \$228 million in COVID-19 stimulus money is being spent in Nova Scotia. The money was first announced in May and represents the province's largest response to the pandemic to date. Further details of how the money would be spent were released in June, but the largest portions of the spending — including about \$150 million in capital work on roads, bridges and buildings — were not broken down at the time.

[Spike in COVID-19 cases in N.B. has some people pushing for changes to Atlantic bubble](#)

As New Brunswick copes with two outbreaks of COVID-19, Maritimers are divided over whether the Atlantic provinces should keep the bubble as is or tighten things up. "I think the bubble should stick around, we should closely monitor what's going on in New Brunswick, and if it continues to worsen then I have trust that our public health officials will make the right decisions," said Nova Scotian Mohammed Al-Hamdarn. Although the Atlantic bubble is still in place, some businesses, such as a Halifax yoga studio, are asking anyone who has travelled to New Brunswick recently to refrain from coming to in-studio classes for the next two weeks, or until there is more information about the outbreaks there.

[Westin Nova Scotian in Halifax gets social with restaurant, bar makeovers](#)

It has gone through an array of changes over the nine decades it has stood on Hollis Street, but the Westin Nova Scotian has recently undergone renovations throughout the building and it was time to relaunch the restaurant and bar. Seaport Social opened last week, replacing Elements and Roy's Cocktail Lounge. Alison Dove, director of food and beverage, told me: "Not only is Seaport Social in a different space than Elements and Roy's, it has an entirely different look and menu style. The restaurant and lounge are now side by side and open to each other with the bar located just inside the main entrance to the hotel."

[Taxi president warns potential Uber users of surge pricing during peak times](#)

The head of the Halifax Taxi Association doesn't expect ride hailing service to be successful when they enter the market in HRM. Last week, Uber announced their intention to have the ride-hailing service up and running by the end of the year. Dave Buffett says Uber's price model, and a small number of cars on the road will lead to much higher rates than taxis.

[New parking systems in Halifax area cause confusion and comes with a few glitches](#)

Big changes to parking took effect in the Halifax area Tuesday as the municipality kicked its parking meters to the curb. The change didn't arrive without a few speed bumps. "Residents might have gone to a pay station first thing this morning and either were unable to complete their transaction or got all the way through and received an error code," said Victoria Horne, the manager of HRM parking services.

[Phase 1 of Robie/Young Transit Priority Corridor now complete](#)

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that phase 1 of the Robie/Young streets Transit Priority Corridor is now complete. Phase 1 of this project includes the installation of dedicated bus lanes on Robie Street between Quinpool Road and Young Street and on Young Street between Robie and Windsor streets. This work, which was recommended as part of the Integrated Mobility Plan, aims to prioritize transit on key corridors, helping to improve transit service reliability.

[After lengthy wait, Nova Scotia panel to look at proposed aquaculture projects](#)

A three-person panel set up to rule on proposed aquaculture developments and expansions in Nova Scotia is about to hold its first hearing since its inception five years ago. Approval of the upcoming applications would mark the first significant aquaculture projects since the province issued a moratorium in 2013. Raymond d'Entremont of Grand Pass Oysters wants to set up oyster farms in waters known as La Grande Passe off Argyle in Yarmouth County. He'll present his three applications to the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board on Oct. 20 in Yarmouth.

[WestJet cutting flights to Atlantic Canada](#)

WestJet says it is indefinitely suspending operations to Moncton, N.B, Fredericton, Sydney, N.S., and Charlottetown, while significantly reducing service to Halifax and St. John's, N.L. The airline is also suspending operations between Toronto and Quebec City. WestJet says the suspension eliminates more than 100 flights weekly starting Nov. 2.

[Outbreak declared at Campbellton special-care home; another N.B. school reports COVID-19 case](#)

New Brunswick public health has declared an outbreak at a special-care home in Campbellton, N.B., and a fourth school in the Campbellton region -- Dalhousie Regional High School -- is reporting a confirmed case of COVID-19. Dr. Jennifer Russell, the province's chief medical officer of health, made the announcement Tuesday afternoon as she revealed that there are six new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Brunswick -- five in Zone 5 (the Campbellton region) and one in Zone 1 (the Moncton region.)