

Media Scan

Thursday August 5, 2021

[With less border restrictions, more tourists are arriving and booking campgrounds](#)

Campgrounds across Nova Scotia have suddenly gotten pretty busy. If the August long weekend was a litmus test for how the industry has been doing now that things have opened up a bit, it appears that the lull has passed. "We were sold out," said Darrell Bernard, the co-owner of the Kluskap Ridge Campground in Englishtown, N.S. He says being filled to capacity on the long weekend was a chance to make up for lost money. After very little traffic the first month they were open, during the third wave back in the spring. "We've got campers coming in from Ontario, New Brunswick, Quebec, and we've got bookings from Americans," Bernard said. "They're coming - sooner or later, I know."

[Halifax restaurant owners seeing summer uptick, but say they're not out of the woods yet](#)

Some Halifax restaurant owners say the fourth phase of Nova Scotia's reopening plan has brought an increase in business, but guests still aren't flocking to dining rooms in the numbers they had hoped for. Despite the return of the Atlantic bubble, tourism is still not what it used to be, said Liz Ingram-Chambers, owner of Le Bistro by Liz, and physical distancing requirements continue to limit the number of tables she can sit in her South Park Street restaurant.

[Environmental issues take the spotlight in N.S. election debate](#)

Party positions on the environment and climate change were in the spotlight Wednesday night at an election debate in Halifax. Candidates representing the Greens, Liberals, Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats touted their party's platforms at an Ecology Action Centre event, and fielded questions on some of the province's most controversial environmental topics, including Owls Head. The only party leader on the stage at the Ummah Mosque and Community Centre was the Green Party's Jessica Alexander.

[Party leaders talk economy with Halifax Chamber of Commerce](#)

Nova Scotia's Liberal leader pitched himself as a deficit slayer before a business audience on Wednesday, contrasting his budget balance goals with his Progressive Conservative opponent's spending plans. The differing spending strategies were on display as the two party leaders, along with the head of the province's NDP, responded to questions posed by members of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce and debated each other. "We need to make sure that we are living within our means," Liberal Leader Iain Rankin told the crowd. "The spending that is proposed by both opposition parties is in the billions — adding structural deficits that we cannot incur right now."

[Proposed Halifax infill threatens lucrative lobstering grounds: 'It's just going to be turning it into a mud river'](#)

An Eastern Passage lobster fisherman says some of his best catches come from a spot slated for infilling in Halifax's Northwest Arm. Justin Stewart said Andrew Metlege's plan to infill 45 metres out into the Arm in front of a home the developer purchased at 1454 Birchdale Ave. would make the ocean floor in that area inhospitable to lobster. "If they infill everywhere they're talking about, it's just going to be turning it into a mud river," Stewart said. "It would mean quite a bit to lose it. And it just seems silly ... that they're even allowed to think about filling it in. There's such good life and everything going there."

[Border workers issue strike notice to government, job action to start Friday: union](#)

About 9,000 Canadian Border Service Agency workers are preparing to begin job action across the country on Friday and say travellers should expect long lineups and lengthy delays at border crossings and airports. The Public Service Alliance of Canada and its Customs and Immigration Union, which represent the workers, said that it served a strike notice to the government on Tuesday and is now readying its workers to up the ante. If a contract isn't reached by 6 a.m. Friday, the union said its members will begin a "sweeping" series of actions at Canadian airports, land borders, commercial shipping ports, postal facilities and headquarters locations.

[Higgs stands by decision to lift restrictions; explains what would trigger bringing them back](#)

New Brunswick is into a fifth day without any mandatory COVID-19 restrictions. The change was made even though the province has not yet reached its stated target of 75 per cent of the population vaccinated with second shots. CTV Anchor Steve Murphy interviewed New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs about the decision on Wednesday evening.

[Ontario invests \\$5.7 million into Ottawa festivals, events and activities during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Ottawa's festivals, fairs and events are receiving a \$5.7 million boost from the Ontario government to help deliver innovative and safe experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries Lisa MacLeod announced one-time funding on Wednesday for festival and event organizers to deliver events that allow people to safely reconnect with their communities. Forty-six events, festivals and attractions in Ottawa will receive funding. "Increasing our annual support for festival and events will give the sector a much-needed boost as we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19," said MacLeod in a statement. "Our government is supporting organizations that are finding new ways to safely engage and reconnect Ontarians with their local communities while creating local jobs."

[Windsor Road Trip Rewards campaign hopes to boost hotel revenues](#)

Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island has launched a visitor incentive campaign to help 'kickstart sluggish hotel revenues' in the area. 'Windsor Road Trip Rewards' incentivizes visitors who book a minimum two-night stay in Windsor and the surrounding municipalities with a \$50 VISA card and a \$25 Windsor Pizza Club voucher. "The Windsor Road Trip Rewards program will give our valued hotels a shot in the arm by providing unique incentives that resonate with travelers. This is the time to launch such a campaign in an effort to kickstart sluggish hotel revenues resulting from the 17 month pandemic and help put heads in beds," said Gordon Orr, CEO of Tourism Windsor Essex.

[Wildfires, smoke bring tourism rush to Island; operators at capacity](#)

Many of those rushing to the Island had originally planned to vacation in hotspots like the Okanagan and Kootenays, where Environment Canada has issued air-quality warnings and evacuation alerts could happen at any moment. Favourable winds have kept smoke away from the Island, which has no major fires, attracting visitors from elsewhere in B.C. and other provinces alike. "The number of places people can go has just shrunk — and we're really seeing that demand here," said Bill Lewis, general manager of the Magnolia Hotel in downtown Victoria.