

Media Scan

Thursday October 21, 2021

[Northern Cape Breton's budding winter tourism dreams face a housing crunch](#)

With a gondola, snow-making machines and a newly renovated lodge, Ski Cape Smokey is ready for a busy winter. The Ingonish, N.S., ski hill is expected to bring lots of visitors to an area of Cape Breton that is known mainly as a summer destination. But local business owners that hope to benefit from the influx have a big question — how can they get people to work in a winter wonderland if they don't have a place to live? "People are flocking to the island more than ever, but I feel like we're kind of at a standstill because until we can serve the people that are coming to this island, then we can't expand," said Sarabeth Drover, co-owner of Salty Rose's and the Periwinkle Café. Drover and her cousin/business partner Caitlyn Purcell have had to purchase trailers and build washroom facilities to house staff in the summer.

[Cruise industry in Maritimes already preparing for next spring](#)

Starting next month, cruise ships will officially be allowed to visit ports in the Maritimes once again as the federal government prepares to lift its ban on the vessels in Canadian waters which was put in place because of the pandemic. However, industry officials say that though they are getting the green light on Nov. 1, it will be months before Maritimers can get a glimpse of a cruise ship docked in their community, and that the season will start in Canada next spring. Andrew Dixon is the senior vice-president of trade and business development at the Port of Saint John, and also serves as chair of the National Cruise Committee of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities. At the Port of Halifax it's expected that they'll see vessel call bookings of about 80 per cent of where they left off back in 2019. "It should be a pretty good start for rebuilding and we're happy about that," says Lane Ferguson, communications manager for the Port of Halifax.

[Cunard Centre closure impacts downtown events](#)

Last weekend, The Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada held its annual fundraiser at the Halifax Convention Centre. "It was a huge success," said foundation volunteer Marilyn Roy. "People absolutely were excited to get out and get dressed up and see everyone in real life." The foundation raises money for children's health care. In the past, this event happened at the Cunard Centre, which closed permanently in September after losing too much business during the pandemic. "When the Cunard Centre was not going to reopen, it caused a scramble to find another location," said Roy who found a quick solution and made a last-minute booking. "The people at the Halifax Convention Centre could not be more helpful," said Roy. Events East Executive Vice President Suzanne Fougere said the Cunard Centre closure has brought a ripple effect to the event industry.

[After \\$1M donation, Nova Scotia Nature Trust moves closer to doubling the land it protects](#)

Thanks to a \$1-million donation, Nova Scotia Nature Trust has moved closer to its goal of doubling the amount of land it protects. "This step up to \$1 million is just so, so generous and such a great gift not just to nature, but to all Nova Scotians," said executive director Bonnie Sutherland. The organization is in the midst of a four-million dollar fundraising campaign called Twice the Wild. The group's aim is to bring the amount of land under its stewardship from 15,000 to 30,000 acres (12,140 hectares) by 2023. The David and Faye Sobey Foundation committed \$900,000 to the campaign. Paul and Marsha Sobey contributed an additional \$100,000 to bring the Sobey family's donation to \$1 million.

[N.S. government extends 2% rent cap until Dec. 31, 2023](#)

The Nova Scotia government is enshrining the current two per cent cap on rental increases in law until Dec. 31, 2023, as part of an ambitious plan intended to address the province's housing crisis. Premier Tim Houston and Housing Minister John Lohr made the announcement during a news conference in Halifax on Wednesday. Houston said the effects of a lack of available housing are clear, as is the situation with homelessness that's resulted in tent cities popping up in parts of Halifax Regional Municipality. "We see Nova Scotians forced to live on the streets and the reality for them is that winter is coming," he said. "We know enough right now to take action and we're obligated as a government to do so." That action includes the extension of the rent cap, which was first introduced in November 2020 and could have ended in February 2022. While Houston and the Tories have steadfastly said increasing supply, not rent control, is the long-term solution, on Wednesday he acknowledged a bridge is required until more supply is available.

[Small business at pandemic impasse](#)

This has been the hardest of times for small businesses. Leaders are stressed, teams are exhausted and balance sheets are precarious. But if you're going to lead, you must face the world as it is, not as it was or what you may want it to be. That requires meaningful reflection on your customer, on your finances and on the people who you work with every day. How have your customer's needs changed? Owners, you have to ask yourselves: Do you still understand your customer? Every successful business leader must clearly understand three essential metrics: What problem do you solve? What is the value of solving that problem? Does it have a different value for different groups of customers? We're in a period of deep instability. What do your customers value today?

[Canada to announce plans for international travel vaccine passport on Thursday](#)

The federal government is planning to unveil its plans for a vaccine passport designed for international travel on Thursday, CTV News has confirmed. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland are scheduled to speak to reporters at 10 a.m. ET on Thursday following a technical briefing involving several federal departments, including the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canada Border Services Agency. With several countries, including the United States, opening its borders to travellers, proof of vaccination for travel has, to date, come through provincial vaccine receipts. A nationwide vaccine passport for travel would make for a uniform document.

[Montreal summer tourism better than 2020, but well below 2019 levels](#)

Data released Thursday by Tourism Montreal shows that tourism activity picked up a bit last summer in the metropolis, but remained well below what was seen before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The average hotel occupancy rate was 38.5 per cent last summer, up 22.7 per cent from 2020, but 47.5 per cent lower than the summer of 2019. Tourism Montreal noted a 199 per cent increase in international tourists last July compared to the corresponding month in 2020, but still 92.5 per cent below July 2019. Passenger traffic at Montreal Airport last July was 75.2 per cent lower than July 2019.