

**Monday November 29, 2021**

[Emergency Support Provided to 56 Non-Profit Recreation Facilities](#)

The Province has approved emergency funding for 56 recreation facilities owned and operated by non-profit organizations to help them adapt to the ongoing impact of COVID-19. "Recreation facilities are the cornerstone of healthy, strong and thriving communities, so it was important that they received support to work through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage Minister Pat Dunn. "Nova Scotians depend on these facilities to get active and connect with their community." Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, many recreation facilities were closed for various lengths of time, resulting in significant revenue loss. They faced lost rentals and cancelled events, increased cleaning and maintenance expenses, staff layoffs and limited ability to fundraise. Grant recipients include the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena in Thorburn, Pictou County, which received \$40,000 to help the facility cover operational expenses and ensure that the arena could continue to operate.

[Halifax businesses concerned about plan to turn Spring Garden Road transit-only](#)

Halifax planners are proposing a year-long pilot project that would have Spring Garden Road between South Park and Queen streets closed to traffic during the day. In a report, planners say the aim of the project is to "improve the corridor for pedestrians and transit," and "beautify" the area. The streetscaping project will see sidewalks widened and the roadway narrowed to give priority to pedestrians and transit. However, concerns were raised by some businesses and residents on the impacts this option would have on loading and area traffic circulation.

[Concern grows in Cape Breton as region braces for more potential rain](#)

In an area already hit by record rainfalls last week, it appears more is on the way. Communities along the Cabot Trail are just starting to pick up the pieces from the damage done by flooding and road washouts. The hope is another downpour forecast for Monday won't cause any more destruction, or undo temporary repairs that have already been made. "I am sensing a lot of concern about the rain coming tomorrow", said Ingonish-area councillor Larry Dauphinee. "Some reports are saying up as high as 70 mm, which usually wouldn't be anything to be concerned about." Dauphinee says his biggest concern is shoulder washouts along the highway. "The shoulders down there are like three to four feet deep – trenches", he said. "More rain coming, where's it going to go? So my concern is that it's going to undermine the pavement there." After touring the hardest hit areas by helicopter on Saturday, Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston is promising recovery support from all three levels of government.

[Nova Scotia opens COVID-19 vaccine bookings for children aged 5 to 11](#)

Parents and guardians of children aged five to 11 in Nova Scotia can now book their child's COVID-19 vaccine, the province announced Friday. Children in that age group will receive Pfizer's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine. They will need two doses of the vaccine at least eight weeks apart and will be considered fully vaccinated after their second dose. "The pandemic has been challenging for families and young children. School closures and social isolation from friends, families and activities they enjoy has been difficult," said Premier Tim Houston in the release. "I strongly encourage families to consider vaccination for their children to protect them and everyone around them from the virus."

[High winds once again delay start of lobster fishery in southwestern NS](#)

High winds have once again forced a delay in the opening of the commercial lobster fishery in southwestern Nova Scotia and along the province's south shore in both LFAs 33 and 34. The season will not open on Nov. 29 – the traditional 'last Monday of November' opening day. Due to the forecast, things are also a no-go for Tuesday, Nov. 30. In a post on its Facebook page on Sunday, the Coldwater Lobster Association says the next LFA 34 industry conference call to discuss the season-opening will happen on Monday at 1:30 p.m. to determine whether an opening could happen on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

[Painting, hiding rocks a 'random act of kindness' that has global reach](#)

You're walking in the woods and out of the corner of your eye you spot something colourful. Hiding in the crook of a tree or under a bush, and often on the back, there is a friendly note: "Post to Halifax Rocks on Facebook. Keep or rehide." According to the Halifax Rocks page, "ralking" — painting, hiding and finding rocks — is a "random act of kindness, a gift to a stranger to keep or re-hide." In a few years, the Facebook group has grown from about a dozen of founder Ivan Graham's friends and family to more than 17,000 members. "I'm not an artist by any means, but I thought I could do that and I could certainly set up the Facebook group," he said.

[Ski resort operator calls on B.C. government to open highway for non-essential travel](#)

Highway closures in B.C. are creating uncertainty for holiday travellers, which is causing concern for an Okanagan ski resort that was set to receive an influx of visitors over the holidays. Michael Ballingall, senior vice-president at Big White Ski Resort in Kelowna, said there had been more than 170 cancellations through the resort's central reservation system as of Sunday morning — and more were pouring in. He said people who had planned to travel to the Interior from the Lower Mainland want certainty about their holiday plans, and with road conditions and closures in flux, it's difficult to predict what the situation will be in a few weeks. Highways in B.C. remain closed as severe weather continues to pummel the province, delaying the delivery of goods and services throughout B.C.

### [Omicron Variant Prompts International Tourism Destinations to Update Safety Measures, Travel Restrictions](#)

A new variant is impacting the travel industry. Three of Europe's most popular tourist destinations say they have found new COVID-19 cases with the Omicron variant. Great Britain, Italy and Germany all say the new strain of the virus has entered their respective nations, prompting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson – as well as the country of Israel – to implement updated safety measures. According to a story by Reuters News Service, Israel is banning all foreign visitors to the country and will bring back its counter-terrorism efforts that include phone-tracking technology. The Omicron variant emanated in southern Africa, and several countries – including the United States – have put travel bans on anyone traveling from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. There were two cases detected in Britain and two in Germany, and one case discovered in Milan, Italy, although Chris Witty, the Chief Medical Officer in Great Britain, expressed optimism about Omicron.

### [COVID passports, vaccines helped EU tourism recovery - U.N](#)

Widespread use of COVID-19 "passports" and vaccines helped tourism recover faster in the European Union than in other parts of the world in the third quarter of 2021, a U.N. report said on Monday. Globally, international tourist arrivals rose 58% between July and September compared with the same period in 2020, the U.N. World Tourism Organisation barometer said. That was still 64% below the same period in 2019, before the pandemic. In Europe, international tourist arrivals were just 53% down from the 2019 summer season.