

Media Scan

Friday January 28, 2022

[New venture seeks to promote Black tourism in Nova Scotia](#)

René Boudreau wants Nova Scotia to be a hotspot for Black tourism. Boudreau is the CEO and founder of Elevate and Explore Black Nova Scotia, a business dedicated to highlighting the culture, history, and heritage of the province's Black community in order to bring Black travellers from around the world to the province. "My hope would be that people from all backgrounds are able to learn more about the history and experience of Black people here in Nova Scotia," said Boudreau. Elevate and Explore has partnered with another Nova Scotia small business, Settled Nomads, to create self-guided tours of Nova Scotia that highlight significant historical sites of Black history, Black-owned businesses and Black excellence across the province. Boudreau said she wants to create experiences where people from all backgrounds can enjoy themselves while also learning about the Black history of Nova Scotia. "We really want to showcase narratives that go beyond the white settler, colonial narratives," said Chelsea Hanoun, owner and operator of Settled Nomads.

[South Western Nova Scotia will benefit from investments to help improve tourism experiences](#)

Canadian cities and towns flourish when they have community public spaces to promote social interaction and physical activity, and provide access to recreational programs and facilities. These amenities are integral to the overall well-being of individuals, families and communities. Our economic recovery is closely linked to the vitality of our local communities and their shared spaces. Today the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and Member of Parliament for Central Nova, announced total investments of \$884,227 for nine projects through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) and two projects through the Tourism Relief Fund (TRF). These projects are located in Digby, Yarmouth and Annapolis Counties.

[Lucy the Lobster's Groundhog Day prediction to kick off N.S. Lobster Crawl](#)

After a year's absence due to the COVID pandemic, Lucy the Lobster will be back on her weather-predicting lobster trap on Groundhog Day to start off a month long 'shellabration' of everything lobster on the South Shore. The fourth Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl – an annual event before being sidelined by COVID – is set to go for the month of February, with numerous businesses and organizations along the South Shore from Peggy's Cove through to Barrington offering special getaways, events and tasty lobster dishes. A star attraction of the Lobster Crawl each year is Lucy.

[Osprey Arts Centre making plans for summer festivals in Shelburne](#)

Two outdoor music festivals being organized by the Osprey Arts Centre will be returning to the Shelburne historic district this summer. Planning is well underway for the weekly Lawn Chair Festival initiated last year, and also the third annual Ancient River Festival, says Jay Pilzer, chair of the Osprey board of directors. "The Lawn Chair Festival was very well attended and the Ancient River Festival with Lennie Galant was hugely successful," said Pilzer. "We had a songwriters circle for two days prior with him," – and that event sold out. Both festivals were held at the open air Guild Hall, with the exception of the songwriter's circle which was held inside the nearby Osprey theatre where there was lots of room for social distancing, says Pilzer. "The Ancient River Festival has become, over the last two years, a pretty big deal," says Pilzer, adding the Osprey has some feelers out for headliners and performers for both festivals.

[Halifax Port Authority announces new expansion project that could also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#)

The Halifax Port Authority (HPA) announced a new expansion project Thursday that could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A release from HPA says it will be infilling the basin between Piers A-1 and B at Ocean Terminals, all while taking advantage of the boom in construction in the Halifax area. "Doing so will create a new location for the sequestration of pyritic slate generated from construction projects in downtown Halifax, thus reducing the number of truck loads and related greenhouse gas emissions associated with hauling slate to the Fairview Cove Sequestration Facility," said Lane Ferguson, manager and spokesperson for HPA. "We added 300 metres in length to the pier a few years ago and a lot of the material we used there was pyritic slate." Pyritic slate is a naturally occurring substance, which yields an acidic runoff – a material that can't just be disposed anywhere for environmental reasons. Currently, there is more of the substance now than its facility in Fairview can handle.

[Some Nova Scotians feeling frustrated after province extends COVID-19 restrictions for 2 weeks](#)

Ardon Mofford owns Governor's Pub & Eatery in downtown Sydney, N.S. and describes business as bleak. ""We're on life support right now," he said. Mofford says the COVID-19 Omicron wave has pushed customers away, and it is affecting his bottom-line. "I mean, every month that passes and the restrictions are still in place, it's going to affect our peak season," said Mofford. Nova Scotia has extended its current COVID-19 restrictions until Feb. 14, citing high hospitalizations as one of the main reasons. It's a decision not everyone is on board with. "The logic is you send children back to school, why can't we do the same for sports venues," said hockey parent, Scott Purdie. Arenas across the province remain relatively empty. Games and competitions are on hold under current public health guidelines, and will remain that way until restrictions are eased.

[In Halifax, a wifi lounge and a park are nice, but it's easy parking that commercial tenants really want](#)

A deal that will see Adaptiiv Medical Technologies take 9,000 square feet of office space at Purdy's Wharf is the latest sign of vigour at the three-building Halifax waterfront office complex, says a commercial real estate specialist. Adaptiiv is a Halifax company that provides 3D printing software solutions for cancer treatment. "It's a fairly decent size," Mat Houston of CBRE said of the deal. "In our market, in general, the average office tenants are 3,000-4,000 square feet. So, it's on the bigger end." Houston said Purdy's is looking to attract different kinds of users but really likes tech companies. "That's where we're seeing a lot of the new activity in our market, with a lot of growth potential there," he said of companies like Adaptiiv, which has grown before in terms of space requirements. "Tech space really likes flexibility and the ability to grow, they're usually ambitious. When we do these deals, a lot of them are looking to the future." CBRE statistics have Halifax seventh on the list of 25 up and coming North American tech markets, with 24-per-cent growth in tech jobs over the past five years and a tech labour force of 14,700 workers.

[Accolades keep coming for Nova Scotia's Raging Crow Distillery](#)

Many wonderful things are happening in small distilleries across Nova Scotia and a national accolade for the Raging Crow Distillery near Truro is backing up that claim. The North River distillery was honoured by the 2022 Canadian Whiskey Awards on Jan. 13 when its Can't Call it B**rbon won a silver medal, improving on a bronze last year, and repeated as Best Whiskey Spirit in Canada. "It's nice to beat some of the big boys," company president Jill Linqvist told the SaltWire Network. "It was a blind taste test they sent out to 10 judges across the country and we were thrilled with the results. It's really affirming for a small distillery in North River, N.S. to make award-winning spirits."

[Bank of Canada holds interest rates at 0.25% but hints of hike to come](#)

The Bank of Canada declared an end to the economic emergency caused by COVID-19, and promptly pivoted to confront the most serious inflation scare in more than decades. Canada's central bank concluded that the output gap, the difference between actual gross domestic product and the level of GDP that central bankers associate with the country's non-inflationary speed limit, has closed ahead of schedule thanks to "robust" hiring, exports and investment. For the Bank of Canada, that's the equivalent of declaring, "mission accomplished." Governor Tiff Macklem and his six deputies opted to end their commitment to keep the benchmark interest rate near zero until at least the spring, suggesting they will raise interest rates for the first time in more than two years when they next update interest-rate policy in early March.