

# Media Scan

Friday March 18, 2022

## [Interest in Sydney waterfront picks up with downtown construction boom](#)

Prime real estate that used to be home to the Royal Cape Breton Yacht Club on Sydney's waterfront has languished for years. But there is renewed interest in developing the land and officials say that is thanks in part to construction of the new waterfront campus for Nova Scotia Community College. The Cape Breton Regional Municipality has received three bids to develop its waterfront property that lies between the Joan Harriss Cruise Pavilion and the Holiday Inn hotel, marking a distinct change in attitudes toward development in CBRM. "If there's three requests for proposals, I think that's a good sign that the business community is taking quite an interest in CBRM," said Paul Burt, the municipality's manager of building, planning and licensing laws. "There's some major development and redevelopments going on with health care and education, so absolutely, it's great news for CBRM." Municipal officials assessing the new development proposals did not want to comment. Spokeswoman Christina Lamey said after evaluations are done, staff will discuss the bids behind closed doors with council and then make a recommendation at an open council session, likely within a month.

## [Back to the future: New initiative aims to bring Cape Breton Island tourism back to pre-pandemic levels and beyond](#)

With pandemic-related travel restrictions now mostly lifted, Cape Breton's tourism industry is looking to capitalize on its rating as one of the top destination islands in the world. But those involved in the beleaguered sector know it's going to take more than just an open for business sign to entice visitors to the scenic and awe-inspiring Nova Scotia island. On Wednesday, the collective effort of restoring tourism to pre-COVID-19 levels and beyond received a financial shot in the arm thanks to a \$2.24 million investment in Cape Breton University's Island Tourism Training Network. The funding is part of the federal government's Sectoral Initiatives Program aimed at helping the tourism and hospitality sector. Cape Breton-Canso MP Mike Kelloway, who made the announcement at CBU's Beaton Institute, said the initiative includes the recognition and promotion of the island's rich culture that is highlighted by more than 10,000 years of Mi'kmaq residency.

## [Heading from Halifax to New York? Plan to drive, no flights this summer](#)

Notably absent from the list of U.S. destinations travellers can fly non-stop this summer from Halifax is the most popular one. New York City and Newark, N.J., are not on the list, which includes Orlando, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. "American Airlines will be back, and they're operating flights to Philadelphia, as they did before," said Marie Manning, vice-president at the Halifax International Airport Authority. "They're also launching for the first time Washington, D.C., and Boston. Air Canada is going to be providing service to Boston as well, and we have direct flights to Orlando and that will continue for the rest of the year. "What we are missing on our route map this year are Chicago and Newark, which serves New York, of course. Those were operated by United."

## [Dr. Strang, Premier Houston to give COVID-19 briefing today](#)

Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, and Premier Tim Houston are scheduled to provide a COVID-19 update Friday afternoon. The briefing is scheduled to start at 3:15 p.m. and the live stream will be available here. Friday's update is the first since Feb. 23. The province's weekly COVID-19 update Thursday was delayed by a day due to technical difficulties, according to a release. The province began releasing reports weekly instead of daily last week. That move left some people concerned the lack of data may make it difficult for Nova Scotians to effectively assess their risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. On Monday, the province will lift most public health restrictions like masks and physical distancing, including at schools. However, the IWK Health Centre's pediatric pandemic advisory group still recommends that students continue to wear masks at least until mid-April.

## [Strang confident Nova Scotians will continue to do 'those things that have kept us safe'](#)

Starting Monday, Nova Scotians will no longer be bound by restrictions put in place as long as two years ago to try to protect them from catching and transmitting COVID-19. Despite the province's decision to lift restrictions in the midst of the pandemic, Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, says he is convinced the "vast majority of Nova Scotians" will continue to do "those things that have kept us safe for the last two years." Just because measures are being lifted and people aren't legally constrained "doesn't mean the pandemic is over, doesn't mean that people should not still continue to do all those things," Strang said in an interview Thursday. "We're still strongly recommending that people get vaccinated, stay home if you're sick — strong recommendation that people continue to wear masks in indoor places, in workplaces and public places. "Just because we aren't saying you have to do it doesn't mean that people should stop doing it."

### [Rotary Ribfest returns to Open Hearth Park after two-year absence](#)

After being sidelined for two years due to COVID-19, the Rotary Clubs of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality are bringing back Ribfest at Open Hearth Park in July. Announced Thursday, the event will be held July 15, 16 and 17 at Open Hearth Park. Plans are underway for a vendor village, beverage tent, family fun zone, five-kilometer race and, of course, ribs. “This is one of Cape Breton’s most popular events. We know folks have missed it, and we are really looking forward to hosting one of the biggest and best events to date,” said Ribfest chair Darren Vallis. In the past, Ribfest has hosted more than 33,000 attendees and has raised more than \$318,00 for various health-related charities, like Hospice Cape Breton, Caleb’s Courage and the Tom MacNeil Cancer Patient Care Fund.

### [Pictou's deCoste Centre presenting an appreciation week of music](#)

— The deCoste Centre for Arts and Creativity in Pictou is saying thank you to its members and supporters by hosting an array of musical talent to close out this month and start April. Admission will be by donation for members and \$25 for non-members for shows which are part of the centre’s It’s time to ... Come Together, Spring 2022 event. The shows begin with classical guitarist Tareq Harb on March 24 and Celtic Spring Fling on March 29 which includes performances by the Kitchen Criminals, Darren McMullen and Rachel Davis, Tony and Shannon Quinn, and Buddy MacDonald.

### [Stellarton heritage projects fast-tracked with federal funding](#)

Stellarton will have three heritage projects unfold this spring thanks to funding support from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). Through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund, the Town of Stellarton received \$11,000 for the development and implementation of a Heritage Walking Tour, the purchase and installation of town signage, and a 12-piece canvas set leading up to the town’s Heritage Room. “Highlighting and preserving our town’s heritage in an innovative and educational way is something this council has been striving for,” said Mayor Danny MacGillivray in a press release. “We were fortunate to have been able to budget for the development of our Heritage Plan but know that there are tighter budget restrictions every year. The funding assistance provided by ACOA is allowing us to see our heritage vision come true sooner than we anticipated.” The Heritage Walking Tour will highlight the downtown core’s historical landmarks, recreation spaces, and important places like Stellarton’s town hall and NSCC. The map will be available at the town hall and throughout Stellarton.

### [Tourism minister hopes for return of direct domestic flights](#)

Canada’s tourism minister is hopeful for a return of more direct domestic flights in Canada. Evan Solomon asked Randy Boissonnault on CTV News Channel’s Power Play Thursday if he is working to get domestic flights back in major hubs. “You’re speaking my language,” Boissonnault said in response. The minister, who represents Edmonton Centre, said he can’t get a direct flight from Edmonton to Ottawa. “I’m looking forward to announcements from WestJet, Air Canada and others to get us to direct routes,” he told Solomon. “Governments don’t decide direct routes,” said Boissonnault. The minister said the decision is ultimately made by airlines and airports. He said the government is here “to have conversations with those parties.” The federal government announced Thursday that fully vaccinated travellers entering Canada won’t need a negative COVID-19 test. That comes into effect April 1.