



THE CHAMBERS VOICE

WINTER 2021

THE BRIDGEWATER AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE welcomes businesses of all sizes and type. We are committed to engaging our members in ways that inspire a progressive business climate and contribute to the steady economic growth of the South Shore. We're here to support you and help you face the future with confidence.

Season's Greetings!



Bridgewater and Area
Chamber of Commerce

It's hard to believe we are at the end of another year. We've had our challenges and continue to navigate our way through these trying times. As you take a moment this holiday season to reflect on 2021, remember it's in these times that we prove how strong and resilient our community is. We have a lot to be proud of.

Thanks to everyone who continues to work each and every day to provide us with what we need to keep safe and help our communities continue to rise above the challenges that we face. Let's continue to get through this, together.

As we move into 2022, your Chamber is off and running. We are very pleased to announce our collaboration with Yarmouth & Area Chamber of Commerce and Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce as we jointly host The Honourable **Erin O'Toole**, Leader of the Official Opposition for a discussion regarding the issues that matter most to business. **This virtual event will take place on January 11**, starting at noon. Watch for registration news.

We are also working on bringing together our new premier, **Tim Houston**, with the two new representatives for a 'fireside chat' early in 2022. Watch for news of this upcoming event as well.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to answer our survey question: **What are your top 3 concerns to maintain or grow your business?** If you have not submitted your answer yet, please go to: www.bridgewaterchamber.com/chamber-news. The deadline is December 31, 2021. We will be reviewing the responses and will share the results early in the new year.

As many of you know too well, we are experiencing a critical labour shortage in Canada, and in particular, right here on the South Shore. This is affecting local business owners as some are struggling to fill positions and meet customer demand. Please be patient as they continue to deal with this on-going problem. Our government committee is discussing ways to advocate on your behalf.

Finally, as always, we hope you have an opportunity to spend time with your families and cherish what is most important. Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday to all of our friends, members, community partners, and everyone who makes this community such a great place to live. We look forward to serving you in 2022.

Jim Brown,
President

SHOP. DINE. PLAY.

Think local first!
Let's continue to support our local businesses.

Plan a staycation:

visitsouthshore.ca

coastalresortcollection.ca

capelahaveadventures.ca

oakislandresort.ca



IN THIS ISSUE:

News from the Town of Bridgewater

Latest update from MODL

It's Lobster Season on the South Shore!

Member-to-member Loyalty Program

SHOP LOCAL, BUY LOCAL, VACATION LOCAL

Earlier this year, the Province of Nova Scotia announced an **\$18.2 million tourism restart package** that provides operators with new grant programs and marketing support.

Check out the tourism program opportunities available now:

<https://tourismns.ca/>

Business Tools and Resources:

<https://tourismns.ca/business-tools-resources>

<https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/business>



There is still time to answer the survey question:

What are your top 3 concerns to maintain or grow your business?

We've extended the deadline to December 31, 2021. Results will be shared in January. Your feedback is very important to help us determine how we can help!

Go to www.bridgewaterchamber.com/chamber-news and click on the link to provide your answer.

FULLY FUNDED ONLINE PROGRAM

SKILLS FOR GROWING YOUR BUSINESS WORKPLACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We want your business to have all the tools for success, so we have partnered with the **NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education** to bring you a wide range of exciting fully funded training opportunities.

Go to the [Upcoming Events page on our website](#) to see what's on the go – the most popular courses do tend to be offered again, so watch for news by email or on the Facebook page.

Each training session has a **CAPACITY OF 12 ATTENDEES**. More courses will be on offer soon and you will have a chance to RSVP for them.



TOWN HALL CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Town of Bridgewater's public-facing offices, including those in Town Hall, will be closed for the holidays, beginning at 12 noon on Friday, December 24, until Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

If you need immediate assistance related to a **Public Works** matter, such as a water main break, over the holidays, please call the **after-hours emergency number at 902-543-5142**.

DesBrisay Museum is likewise currently closed for the holidays and will re-open on Tuesday, January 4.

FREE BUS SERVICE THANKS TO THE CHAMBER!

Thanks to the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce, **Bridgewater Transit will be FREE for all riders during Boxing Week, from December 27 to 31**. If you've never hopped on board our new transit buses, this is the ideal time to check out the service and let us take you around town as you do your Boxing Week holiday shopping.

CHRISTMAS ON THE LAHAVE CONTINUES

We may not have been able to enjoy a parade this year, but the hard-working Christmas on the LaHave team has put together an absolute holiday feast of things to do, see, and experience around Bridgewater this December. That fun will continue into the new year! For a complete list of activities, installations, and more, please visit www.explorebridgewater.ca/christmas.



DID YOU KNOW? EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

If you're looking for a great way to ensure your event gets promoted on the Town of Bridgewater's online calendar of events automatically, you should consider creating a "Facebook event" – doing so allows your event to be captured in our local events aggregator at www.bridgewater.ca/thisweek. Tell folks around Bridgewater and beyond by getting your event online as a Facebook event listing!

WE'RE HIRING!

The Town of Bridgewater is looking to add to its team in a number of different roles. If you know anyone who may be interested in working with us, please share the link to www.bridgewater.ca/jobs to see all current Town openings, including complete job descriptions and pay ranges.





The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is now debt-free

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has become one of just two municipalities in Nova Scotia to become debt-free. In October, the Municipality made its final debt payment on an infrastructure loan that had spurred development in Osprey Village, including water and wastewater services. The decision to invest in infrastructure was a valuable one, contributing to significant growth in the area, which now has over \$31 million in commercial assessment and provides employment and services to the region.

This achievement is the result of more than a decade's worth of sound financial management by councils who truly understood the importance of wisely managing taxpayers' dollars. The Municipality has a track record of strong financial management, while continuing to meet the needs of residents. They are committed to using taxpayer dollars effectively and responsibly. They have maintained the tax rate despite cost pressures and **have not increased the residential tax rate in 12 years**, while the commercial rate has remained constant for nine years, after a reduction of \$0.10 in 2012.

Being debt free means that the Municipality is no longer paying for past infrastructure investments – **these funds can now be re-invested in maintaining existing infrastructure** like roads, parks, and wastewater treatment systems, or in developing new infrastructure to serve residents. Council is committed to wise and strategic investment to provide excellent service and support economic growth.

Local CLIMATE CHANGE Action Plan



Do you care about Climate Change?

We need members of the public to join the Sustainability Committee. This is an exciting opportunity for those people who would like to actively participate in the discussion of the future of our community through the Local Climate Change Action Plan – visit <https://engage.modl.ca/> for more information

It's lobster season

ON THE SOUTH SHORE



Here's a little lobster lore for newcomers:

When the first European settlers came to North America, they said the lobsters were so plentiful that they would pile up on the shore two feet high. Because of this overabundance, they were initially used as a fertilizer or fish bait. Lobster was also known as a 'poor man's meal' and only suitable for prisoners, indentured servants or lower members of society in Maine, Massachusetts and the Canadian Maritime provinces.

The lobster did not achieve popularity until the mid-19th century mostly due to passenger trains and canned foods. Train travel became popular, and people were heading to the East coast to enjoy the ocean. A demand for 'fresh' lobster allowed restaurants and markets to increase the price. Commercial lobster fisheries flourished after the development of the lobster smack, a custom-made boat with open holding wells on the deck to keep the lobsters alive during transport and by World War II, lobster was considered a delicacy. Lobster became one of the most popular canned products on the market.

Lobsters were originally fished from shallow waters by spearing or gaffing. Because the lobsters were worth more if there were no spear marks on them, the fishermen began using wire cages to trap them. The original wooden lath trap is said to have originated in Cape Cod in 1810 and there have been many modifications of the trap over the years, varying in the number and shape of the openings and compartments. Most lobster traps today are made of a metal or a combination of wood and metal.



Lobsters have long bodies with muscular tails and live in crevices or burrows on the sea floor. They have eight walking legs; the front three pairs have claws, the first of which are larger than the others. Typically, lobsters are dark coloured, either bluish green or greenish brown as to blend in with the ocean floor, but they can be found in a multitude of colours. With the exception of albinos, all lobsters possess astaxanthin (a carotenoid) which is responsible for the bright red colour that they turn after being cooked.

What a great way to spend the month of February
NOVA SCOTIA'S SOUTH SHORE LOBSTER CRAWL
www.visitsouthshore.ca/lobster-crawl

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER LOYALTY PROGRAM

As a member of the Chamber, you have the unique opportunity to **offer any type of gift, discount or incentive to your fellow members.**

Contact us with your idea and we will share it on our member-to-member Facebook page and the website.

This community is committed to helping local businesses succeed! #shoplocal



Chamber members who shop at J & S PAINTS will be given a 25% discount on paint and 10% on sundries.

902-543-8210

215 Dominion St, Unit 3B, Bridgewater



Chamber members who market with SaltWire will be given a **15% discount** on print and digital products. Furthermore, any Chamber members will be given a complimentary print ad with any content campaign. <https://www.saltwire.com/>



Go to www.bridgewaterchamber.com/downloads to view this exclusive offer from Staples for Chamber members. Print out the loyalty card to use in-store or online for instant savings on eligible print & marketing products.

Tell your fellow Chamber members about your business! Share your successes, special offers and good news here:

[Chamber's member-to-member Facebook group](#)

[Bridgewater Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page](#)

We want to hear from you!

LUNCH & LEARN

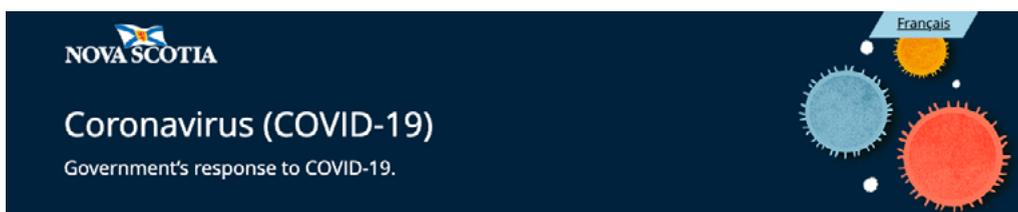
There is one Lunch & Learn scheduled each month and runs from 12 -1 pm. Check the [Upcoming Events](#) page and calendar on our website to RSVP.

Would you like to do a Lunch & Learn?

We are currently taking bookings for 2022. Now is your chance to present something of interest to the business community and connect with local business owners. **Please reach out to us at info@bridgewaterchamber.com.**

DO YOUR BEST TO STAY INFORMED

As we continue to deal with COVID-19 and guidelines change, check this link regularly: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>



[Holiday guidance](#)



[Vaccine](#)



[Restrictions and guidance](#)



[Travel and travelling to Nova Scotia \(self-declaration\)](#)



[Symptoms and testing](#)



[Case data](#)



[Alerts, news and data](#)



[Restriction alerts by county](#)



[Protect yourself and others](#)



[How to self-isolate](#)



[Mental health and wellbeing](#)



[Workplace safety](#)



[Education and childcare](#)



[Financial help and social supports](#)



[Posters, factsheets and resources](#)

Call the very best to everyone for 2022

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Jim Brown

VICE PRESIDENT

Blair Lipsett

PAST PRESIDENT

Shawn Patterson

SECRETARY

Leitha Haysom

TREASURER

Lee Wallet

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dan Hennessey

BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Porter

Cheryl Fougere

Brooke Nodding

Liam Finney

Stacey Mailman

Jayne Rhyno

Rae Ann Bonneville

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

We continue to meet monthly to work on how we can bring more value to our membership!

Friday, Jan 14 8:30 - 10 am

Friday, Feb 11 8:30 - 10 am

Friday, Mar 11 8:30 - 10 am

For information, please contact:

info@bridgewaterchamber.com



Bridgewater and Area
Chamber of Commerce

www.bridgewaterchamber.com



Thanks to Stone Court Studios Inc. for their generous donation of the design and maintenance of our website and this newsletter

www.stonecourtstudios.com