



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Karla MacFarlane

Published by Order of the Legislature by Hansard Reporting Services and printed by the King's Printer.

Available on INTERNET at <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/proceedings/hansard/>

First Session

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

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HOUSE RESOLVED INTO CWH ON BILLS AT 5:14 P.M.8412
HOUSE RECONVENED AT 7:42 P.M.8412
ADJOURNMENT, House rose to meet again on Tue., March 26th at 1:00 p.m.8412



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

Sixty-fourth General Assembly

First Session

4:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Karla MacFarlane

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Lisa Lachance, Danielle Barkhouse, Nolan Young

THE SPEAKER (Danielle Barkhouse): Order, please. Please be seated. Before the doors open, you'll have to excuse me a little bit today; I was cheering my son on.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. BRAD JOHNS: Speaker, as Chair of the Committee on Law Amendments, I'm directed to report that the committee has met and considered the following bill:

Bill No. 419 - Financial Measures (2024) Act.

The committee recommends the bill to the favourable consideration of the House, with certain amendments.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

Ordered that this bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister for Health and Wellness.

RESOLUTION NO. 982

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas endometriosis is a complex and debilitating chronic disease that occurs when tissue that is like the lining of the uterus implants outside of the uterus to form painful lesions, cysts, and deep nodules; and

Whereas it is one of the most common gynecological diseases, affecting one in 10 Canadian women with primary symptoms including abdominal pain and infertility; and

Whereas there is no definitive cause or known cure for endometriosis;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Chamber recognize March as Endometriosis Awareness Month and thank the advocates and medical professionals who work so hard to provide care for all those who are suffering from the disease.

Speaker, I ask for waiver of notice and passage without debate.

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of order.

THE SPEAKER: Please go on.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: On Friday, it was difficult to hear the conversation during Question Period, so it wasn't until after Question Period when I was able to review the transcript or review Hansard that I noticed that the Minister of Health and Wellness, during debate on personal health files being released, referred to that I was "fearmongering and scaring people." I'm wondering if the Speaker can rule if that is unparliamentary or not.

THE SPEAKER: We will take that under advisement and review the transcript.

NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Richmond.

ST. PETER'S & DIST. VFD & LA: ANNIVS. - CONGRATS.

HON. TREVOR BOUDREAU: Speaker, today I would like to recognize the St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. This past October, they celebrated their 60th and 40th anniversaries respectively. The volunteers held an open house that was well attended by members of the community of all ages. They also held a dinner and awards banquet, where many long-term service awards and medals were presented. Adam King was honoured as Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

The fire department and Ladies' Auxiliary are both very active in our community. The fire department holds a Cram the Cruiser event every December to support the local food banks. The Ladies' Auxiliary holds a Christmas craft market every November that not only provides a place for local crafters and bakers to promote their products but is also a large fundraiser for the fire department. This past November was the 40th anniversary of the market.

Please join me in congratulating the St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies' Auxiliary and wish them all continued success.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

CHIPMAN, HUGH: GEOCACHING CONTRIBS. - THANKS

HON. KEITH IRVING: Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hugh Chipman of Wolfville, also known as Junior Woodchuck Huey in the worldwide outdoor recreational activity of geocaching.

Geocachers explore the world using a GPS to hide and find hidden cache containers revealing interesting and special places around us. Junior Woodchuck Huey has hidden 410 caches to date, making him one of the most active cache hidiers in the country. Many of his cache containers take hours to build and have been awarded 3,962 favourite points from his fellow cachers. Junior Woodchuck Huey also creates many challenging puzzle caches, stretching the minds of many a cacher. Junior Woodchuck Huey has also organized the annual Geocaching International Film Festival in Wolfville and held geocaching events bringing together geocachers to learn puzzle-solving techniques.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in thanking Hugh Chipman, AKA Junior Woodchuck Huey, for his many creative contributions to the geocaching community in our province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

GRAPE GROWERS & WINERIES: CONTRIBS. - THANKS

SUZY HANSEN: Speaker, I'd like to stand today to thank the grape growers of Nova Scotia and the wine producers in Nova Scotia for all the hard work and amazing work you do to provide the best wines in the country. Your voices have been heard. Your emails, calls, roundtable discussions, meetings, and mobilizing have been a catalyst for change - true discussion.

The Nova Scotia farm wines sector is vibrant and growing. You have put Nova Scotia on the map as a premier travel destination, supporting rural communities throughout Nova Scotia, coast to coast.

I would like to thank all the folks for all that you continue to do for the wine sector, and I would like all the members of this House to join me on a wine tour when the weather gets nicer to have a good time. I'm pretty sure we will all enjoy ourselves in the wineries.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton East.

FIREFIGHTERS: SNOWSTORM EFFORTS - THANKS

HON. BRIAN COMER: Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the actions of a group of firefighters who endured incredibly harsh conditions in fighting a blaze at an apartment building during the record snowstorm in early February in Cape Breton.

A young family of five who had only been in Cape Breton for five months called 911 after waking up to an electrical fire in the ceiling of their two-storey apartment building. Within minutes, the flames spread throughout the building. Firefighters carrying over 50 kilograms of equipment over 150 metres in waist-high snow quickly arrived at the scene. CBRM snowplows were called in to clear a path during the height of the storm to allow firefighters to run their water hoses down the street.

Platoon chief - now director of Fire and Emergency Services for CBRM - Mark Bettens said, "It was without question the most difficult conditions I've operated in during my career as a firefighter and paramedic." Thankfully, no one was injured in the blaze, and the firefighters were able to recover the residents' important visas and travel documents. Great work to all these first responders and thank you for all that you do.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Annapolis.

IGOT, CHRISTINE: ANNAP. ROYAL TOWN CRIER - CONGRATS.

CARMAN KERR: Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to celebrate Town of Annapolis Royal Town Crier Christine Igot. Christine recently received international attention after being featured in the U.K.-based *Guardian* newspaper series "A new start after 60," which presents stories from people who pursued passions later in life.

When the town announced it would be holding a cry-off to select a replacement for the former town crier, Christine was retired and grieving her mother, who had recently passed away, and was looking for a way to give back and spread positivity throughout her community. Her husband convinced her to throw her hat into the ring, and in Spring 2022, at the age of 60, Christine impressed the judges and won the privilege of becoming the first female town crier in Annapolis Royal's history.

Since then, the retired French teacher has been an exceptional ambassador for our community by welcoming visitors, attending ceremonies, and delivering dozens of proclamations. I invite all members of the House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Christine on having her story featured in the *Guardian* and thanking her for all she does for our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

MCLEAN, ALEX: 50TH BIRTHDAY - BEST WISHES

SUSAN LEBLANC: I rise today to celebrate my excellent friend Alexander Thomas McLean.

Born in Montreal, he grew up in Dartmouth. He was a high school poet and a great artist from an early age. We met at the University of King's College in the 1990s. We hung out and did theatre there. In 1999, we joined Zuppa Circus Theatre together. With Zuppa, we created nine shows - him as director, me as an actor - touring around Canada, the U.S., and the U.K.

He continues to be our co-artistic director at Zuppa and has helmed several more incredible productions. He also co-created my favourite play of all time, *Icaria*, in which he gave a shocking and beautiful performance as Thomas, a boy who wanted to fly.

Alex is generous, smart, funny, and demanding of himself and his colleagues. He loves to eat good food, watch good movies, and quote good poetry. He's interested in everyone and by many things, and he's a super-great dad. A minute can't do him justice. Alex McLean is one of the best and he's turning 50 on April 1st, no foolin'.

I ask all members of this House to join me in wishing him a very happy birthday and many more years of happiness and creative excellence to come.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank.

FALL RIVER GARDEN CLUB: NEW SCULPTURE - RECOG.

HON. BRIAN WONG: I rise today to recognize the Fall River Garden Club. Each year, they hold a successful plant sale, providing residents with beautiful plants for the price of a donation.

In November, after years of planning and working with local metal artist Heather Lawrie-Morse, the garden club unveiled an incredible monarch butterfly sculpture in Jamieson Park on Fall River Road. This butterfly sculpture serves as a reminder to plant more milkweed for the monarch butterfly species, especially in the Fall. The seeds need to freeze to signal them to germinate.

Please join me in applauding this small but mighty garden club in Fall River that is truly taking flight in our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Membertou.

TEAM CANADA: CURLING CH'SHIP WIN - CONGRATS.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: What a week it was in Sydney.

I rise in my place today as one of the Cape Breton MLAs to congratulate the Island on a very successful World Women's Curling Championship and to recognize Team Canada for winning the gold here in Nova Scotia. To Team Homan and their team, congratulations. Thank you for everything that you bring to the sport of curling and representing our country.

I do want to rise in my place and recognize the hundreds of volunteers who were involved with the event. CBRM put a ton of work into this bid. We had The Scotties Tournament of Hearts before; this was the next step. We had thousands of people attend the curling. That was one of the big talks, that these were some of the biggest numbers ever for a curling event. To see Centre 200 sold out and how electric it was for the championships yesterday - it was amazing for our community.

I rise in my place to congratulate Team Canada, but also congratulate the CBRM and so many staff and volunteers who made the World Women's Curling Championship such a huge success.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

HEFFERNAN, NOAH: BOXING ACHIEVEMENTS - CONGRATS.

KENDRA COOMBES: I rise to recognize Noah Heffernan. In April 2018, Noah Heffernan participated in his first boxing match at eight years old. This weekend, at the age of 14, Noah won gold at the Canadian Cup in Calgary. On Friday, March 29th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the New Waterford Boxing Club, they will be hosting a congratulatory open house for Noah. Congratulations, Noah. You've made your community very proud.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle.

AMHGS: ARGYLE HER. PRES. - RECOG.

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: I rise today to recognize the great work of the Argyle Municipality Historical & Genealogical Society. The Society works hard to fulfill its mandate and mission to preserve, protect, promote, and make available to the public Canada's oldest standing courthouse, the Argyle Township Court House, as a historic site. Located in the centre of Tusket, the building was completed in 1805 with its first court session held in October of that year. The most well-known trial to take place in the courthouse was the murder trial of Omar Roberts in 1922.

One of the Society's most significant actions was the establishment of a quarterly newsletter. The *Argus* consists of approximately 45 pages, with about one-half being devoted to historical and genealogical articles about our communities and people.

I ask all members of the House to join me in thanking the Society for its work in the preservation of Argyle's unique heritage.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

[4:15 p.m.]

BILLARD, JASON: FIGHT WITH ALS - RECOG.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: I'd like to recognize Jason Billard, a resident of Beechville, Nova Scotia. Born and raised in Newfoundland, Jason came to Halifax to make a life for himself and succeeded. He was diagnosed with ALS in January 2023. His family and his friends immediately decided to use this as an opportunity to raise funds and awareness.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the Ice Bucket Challenge, which dramatically accelerated the fight against ALS. Jason's birthday is coming up on April 6th, and he will turn 52. I'd like the House to join me in wishing Jason a very happy birthday, and send our best wishes to Jason, his wife Patti, and the rest of his family and friends on their journey with ALS.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

LISA LACHANCE: Joining us in the West Gallery today are Michelle Hébert and Elliott Boyd.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome, and we all hope you enjoy your time here.

The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

HÉBERT, MICHELLE: NOVEL PUBLISHED - CONGRATS.

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle Hébert on the publication of her first work of fiction. Coming in May 2024, *Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic* is a story about a young woman coming of age and a family that believes it's cursed. The story is woven around a mixtape of 1980s songs and a tarot spread. Published by Nimbus Publishing and Vagrant Press, it's a darkly humorous and heartwarming story

of grief, love, magic, mothers and daughters, and the things that haunt families for generations. It's been described as the perfect trip back to 1980s Nova Scotia.

Michelle previously published *Enriched by Catastrophe: Social Work and Social Conflict After the Halifax Explosion*, which looked at the lessons learned by social workers in rebuilding the lives of Haligonians. Michelle is just completing her Master of Fine Arts at University of King's College, and already has a second non-fiction publication on the way.

I can't wait to read *Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic*, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating Michelle on the release of her first book of fiction.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

FIREFIGHTERS: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: As we head into Spring, and hopefully the warmer, drier weather, I want to take a moment to recognize all firefighters in Nova Scotia. In particular, I'd like to recognize the firefighters at Station 6 in Spryfield, Station 62 in Williamswood, and Station 60 in Herring Cove. They not only keep us safe, but they are the first to volunteer at community events, and they always put people first. If you see a firefighter, stop and thank them. They truly are community heroes.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford Basin.

CONLEY, DAVID: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

HON. KELLY REGAN: Bedford lost a significant member of our community in February. David Conley was a longtime educator in Bedford, spending most of his 40-year career right in the community. He started by teaching Physical Education, and later transitioned into the classroom and eventually administration. In the latter part of his career, David chose to return to the classroom. He taught generations of children in Bedford, and Mr. Conley was a teacher they remembered. David recognized the unique qualities of every child and believed in their potential. He had a positive impact on many young lives.

In addition to his career in education, David owned his own consulting business. He also coordinated the Summer camps at Bedford Academy. He coached basketball for many years and volunteered with the Bedford Beavers Swim Team and with Scott Manor House, Bedford's historical society.

My condolences go out to his entire family: his soulmate Nancy Wallace, daughter Samantha, grandson Nash, and brother Kevin. David was only 68, and he was one of those people who was part of everything. I still find it hard to believe he won't be at the next big event. He will be missed.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

POLARIS CHOIR: LABOUR UNREST CONCERT - RECOG.

GARY BURRILL: I'd like to recall with particular appreciation a compelling concert that was held on the December 1st and 2nd at St. Matthew's United Church in Halifax. Celebrations: A Concert in Support of the Halifax Workers' Action Centre featured Polaris, the core choir of Choirs for Change, and explored themes of labour unrest through the work of such contemporary choral composers as Rosephanye Powell, Eric Whitacre, Nicholas Kelly, and Tracy Wong, with choral arrangements of musicians AURORA and Dolly Parton.

Polaris was joined by Hammer & Sichel, a Halifax duo who specialize in songs of solidarity and struggle. The concert brought together two organizations with amazing missions: Polaris, a community choir of singers with a commitment to social change and social justice, and the Halifax Workers' Action Centre, who provide free employment law information, advocacy, and education, with a defining commitment to improving the lives and working conditions of low-wage and marginalized workers. The energy provided by this overlay was palpable and progressive, and it was a real privilege to take the evening in.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Antigonish.

PARTRIDGE, ADAM: SNOWMOBILERS RESCUE - THANKS

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: I rise today to recognize Adam Partridge from Antigonish. On the night of February 3rd, northeastern Nova Scotia experienced an extreme snowstorm. Two snowmobilers in the Arisaig area became trapped while out on the trails. Four Valleys Fire Department, Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue, RCMP, and local residents commenced a search to locate the pair of snowmobilers. Adam was eager to help the searchers with his excavator.

As the weather conditions deteriorated, Adam was warned not to continue up the trail for his own safety. He did, however, continue, digging at least five kilometres through snow that was almost up to the windows of his cab. The snowmobilers were in a makeshift shelter when they heard Adam's excavator. They were about 20 to 30 feet off the trail, and one of them was able to wave Adam down. Fortunately, Adam was able to get them to his machine, and eventually to safety.

Adam was aided by members of the community, who provided gas for his machine and helped keep the road open. I ask all members of this House to thank Adam for his bravery, as well as all those involved for rescuing the snowmobilers.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

MAASS, HEIDI: PIANO INSTRUCTION - THANKS

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: I rise today to recognize Heidi Maass, the owner and instructor of Can Play Piano, located in the heart of Fairview-Clayton Park. Heidi's belief in the innate musicality of every individual drives her mission to spread the joy of music far and wide. Born and raised in Halifax, Heidi's connection to music has shaped her life from an early age. She extends her passion to others using the revolutionary Simply Music Piano learning method, allowing students of all ages and skill levels to discover and develop their musical abilities in a supportive and enjoyable manner. Whether you're a complete novice or seeking to reignite your musical passion, Heidi welcomes you with open arms, with both in-person and online lessons available. Students have the flexibility to learn at their own pace and convenience.

Speaker, I invite all members to join me in recognizing Heidi Maass and Can Play Piano for enriching the lives of her students and inspiring a lifelong love of music.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

FRASER, SCOTT: POWER RESTOR. EFFORTS - THANKS

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Today I rise to honour Mr. Scott Fraser. After Hurricane Dorian, Scott Fraser and his co-workers from Nova Scotia Power worked tirelessly to restore power to homes throughout Cumberland County.

In the early morning of Sunday, September 15, 2019, Scott Fraser contacted me through Facebook Messenger. He and his team had a large amount of food, and Scott didn't want to see it go to waste. He wanted to know if there was anyone in need whom they could give the food to. Within the hour, we met, and Scott gave me boxes of apples and oranges, hundreds of breakfast sandwiches and hash browns, coffee, and more. The food was delivered to some very grateful people, and many hearts were encouraged that day.

Scott Fraser has a heart of gold, and today we acknowledge and thank him for his kindness, goodness, and giving spirit. Scott is dealing with a serious illness, and I want everyone to know what an incredible man he is. Please join me in thanking him and recognizing his giving and kind heart, as well as all the years of work he completed within our community for Nova Scotia Power, serving to keep the lights on.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

COAL BOWL: BASKETBALL TOURN. - RECOG.

KENDRA COOMBES: I rise to recognize Coal Bowl, a national basketball tournament held at Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education. This week-long event is not just about basketball. The participating students from schools across Canada

join in school-sponsored educational, social, and cultural activities. In this tournament, you come as a stranger, you leave as a friend.

Coal Bowl's board of directors work hard planning and organizing this fantastic week. The volunteers are bar none. It is truly a fun and communal experience for all. This year, Coal Bowl was delayed due to 200 centimetres of snow. Next week, the annual tournament will be held at Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education. I want to welcome all players, coaches, and family to our community. This Coal Bowl year is really one for the books.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Shore.

E. SHORE FOREST WATCH ASSOC.: 25TH ANNIV. - RECOG.

HON. KENT SMITH: I rise today to bring recognition to the Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association. This year, the association is celebrating their 25th anniversary of environmental stewardship. The Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association has been involved in many advocacy campaigns over the years, including the designation of Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area and the protection of Owls Head Provincial Park.

Recently, the Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association hosted an all-ages special event at the Deanery Project in Lower Ship Harbour. The day included a trail run, workshops, forestry demonstrations and displays, eco art and puppetry activities, live music and performances, and a free tree giveaway.

I ask all members in the assembly to join me in congratulating the dedicated volunteers on their silver anniversary and for their continued education and actions supporting the long-term health of the Acadian forest ecosystem.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford South.

VOLUNTEERS: INCOME TAX PROGRAM - THANKS

BRAEDON CLARK: Speaker, as we all know, tax season is upon us. Each year, the Canada Revenue Agency puts on a Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, which is a great opportunity for people with simple tax returns to get their taxes done stress-free. I'm happy to say that once again this year my constituency office is accepting returns as part of the CVITP.

I particularly want to thank constituent Foxx Liu, who has recruited dozens of volunteers to help administer this program. My constituency assistant, Joanne, tells me we have had a great response so far this year, and we continue to accept returns until the end of April. Thank you to everyone who is helping make tax season this year easy and - dare I say - fun.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

VELTMEYER, RYAN: WORK WITH YOUTH - THANKS

SUZY HANSEN: Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ryan Veltmeyer, a community developer, entrepreneur, and musician. Ryan has 20 years of experience in all these facets, using a collaborative cross-sector approach to build communities through youth and arts engagement. Ryan believes in the power of creativity and innovation to activate human potential and create economic and social prosperity in communities. Co-founder of the Youth Art Connection in 2012 - a charity building communities of young creatives through workshops, community hubs, festivals, public forums, and leadership development - Ryan embodies all this in his daily work. I am grateful for our many conversations and interactions while working with youth in our communities. I would like all members of this House to join me in recognizing Ryan Veltmeyer for his steadfast dedication to youth and community. Keep up the great work.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

WALES, NANCY: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

HON. JOHN LOHR: Speaker, I rise today to recognize and acknowledge Nancy Wales, Operations Manager of the Fundy Interchurch Food Bank in Kentville. Nancy is a caring and thoughtful volunteer who bakes weekly treats for her volunteers who donate their time and energy at the Fundy Interchurch Food Bank. Whether it is muffins or scones, the baked treats are a wonderful way to thank her volunteers for the many hours of physically demanding work required at the food bank.

The volunteer team at the Fundy Interchurch Food Bank in Kentville includes veterans, retired teachers, clergy, law enforcement professionals, and others who serve the communities of Kentville, New Minas, Coldbrook, and surrounding areas.

Please join me today to recognize and acknowledge Nancy Wales as a leader in volunteerism in our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hammonds Plains-Lucasville.

PHARMACY APPREC. MO.: WORK OF PHARMS. - THANKS

HON. BEN JESSOME: Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that March is Pharmacy Appreciation Month. I would like to acknowledge all the hard-working pharmacists and their teams around the province. On behalf of the community of Hammonds Plains-Lucasville, I would like to recognize the Kingswood Guardian Pharmacy, Brookline Pharmacy, Sobeys Pharmacy Tantallon, and The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, also in Tantallon. I have a little soft spot for my former neighbour, so I would

like to recognize the team at Hammonds Plains PharmaChoice: pharmacists Alison Anderson, Vanessa Benoit, Kristen Bergman, Matt Knowick, and Brittany Patriquin; registered tech Carrie Keddy; and pharmacy assistants Amanda Noonan, Aaron Griffin, Jackie Frasier, Anna MacKenzie, and Melissa Craig.

I encourage all members of the House to say thank you to a pharmacist or all the pharmacies out in your constituencies and parts of our province and wish them a happy Pharmacy Appreciation Month as they continue to do their work.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

LUNDRIGAN, PATRICK: CROSSING GUARD WORK - RECOG.

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions of Patrick Lundrigan. Sending our children out into the world can be unnerving for both parents and children. It always helps when the child's community is providing collective support and safety. School crossing guards provide an important connection between home, community, and school. For over 40 years, Patrick Lundrigan worked as a crossing guard at LeMarchant-St. Thomas Elementary school before retiring just a couple weeks ago. Pat is a devoted partner and father. He continued his devotion to children by spending his days helping students safely cross on Robie Street and, more recently, at LeMarchant. As one parent said, we need more Pats in this world. I ask all members to join me in recognizing the vital role of school crossing guards and, in particular, to thank Patrick Lundrigan for years of service keeping children safe.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

ROBINSON, IAN: BROADCASTING CAREER - RECOG.

HON. KEITH BAIN: Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today to recognize a great friend who was raised in our small village of Big Bras d'Or. His voice has been heard over the years in various radio stations both in Cape Breton and here in Metro. He is currently the afternoon host on Hot Country 103.5. It's also the voice heard at every Halifax Mooseheads game since 1994. That's 30 years for Ian Robinson.

Ian got his start at a small station while attending Memorial High School in Sydney Mines, where you can say he got the bug. Ian began his professional career in broadcasting working with another resident of Big Bras d'Or, Dave Reynolds, at CJCB and CHER-FM radio in Sydney - and it has been onward and upward ever since. His experience as the announcer for the Mooseheads has also led him to write a book entitled *The Ultimate Hockey Joke Book: Laugh Your Face Off*.

I ask all members to recognize Ian Robinson for his tremendous success and wish him the very best in the future.

[4:30 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Dartmouth.

MARTIN, BOB: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

LORELEI NICOLL: Today I stand to recognize Bob Martin, a longtime resident of Cole Harbour. Bob spent his professional career working in the banking industry, while giving generously of his time outside of work to coaching minor hockey in Cole Harbour for over 35 years, as well as on-ice refereeing the game that he loved.

After his first retirement, Bob was keen to jump on the tourism bus, where for 31 years he would guide visitors to our province on daily trips to Lunenburg and Mahone Bay. Bob took great pride in his work with tourism, and felt somewhat an ambassador, promoting the beauty of our province and all that it has to offer.

Bob is a proud Nova Scotian, and I ask the members of the House of Assembly to join me in thanking Bob Martin for a lifetime of contributions to our province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

GILROY, ROD: TIDNISH WILD GAME DINNER - THANKS

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Rod Gilroy and the many volunteers who organized the 8th annual Wild Game Dinner in the community of Tidnish. The dinner has become an annual event, along with many others facilitated by the Tidnish Crossroads Community Association.

The community association is a group of very dedicated volunteers who are united in support of local initiatives and activities. Throughout the year, people in the area have the opportunity to participate in events that enhance the overall well-being of residents of all ages.

In the spirit of service that defines Cumberland North, it is not surprising that there are plenty of volunteers whose hard work and selfless contributions benefit the Tidnish area. One of their greatest achievements is maintaining the Tidnish Crossroads Community Centre, the gathering hub of the area. With Mr. Rod Gilroy's leadership, alongside the dedication of numerous volunteers, the Wild Game Dinner is just one example of what is happening in Tidnish if you are in the area in July.

Thank you to Rod Gilroy and all the volunteers for their invaluable efforts.

THE SPEAKER: Before we move on, I ask that all members keep their statements to exactly a minute. I notice that there's a little bit of a thing that goes on with some, so please, a minute.

The honourable member for Colchester North.

TEAM MACISAAC: CURLING CH'SHIPS PARTIC. - RECOG.

TOM TAGGART: Speaker, I rise today to recognize Team MacIsaac, a group of exceptional young men. Last Friday, Team MacIsaac left the Halifax airport on the way to Fort McMurray, where they will represent Nova Scotia in the Canadian Under 21 Men's Curling Championships.

Last month, curling out of the Truro Curling Club, they went undefeated to win the Nova Scotia championship. Although this team competes in the Under 21 division, they have curled together since they were youths, and have a long history of accomplishments. To mention just one, last year they represented Nova Scotia at the Canada Winter Games. Not only did they go undefeated, but they also never trailed at any time during that tournament.

Team MacIsaac will represent Nova Scotia well. They are mature beyond their years, hard-working, and extremely committed to their sport. I fully expect them to be the next Team Gushue.

I ask that this House wish skip Calan MacIsaac of Greenfield, third Nathan Gray of Dartmouth, second Owain Fisher of North River in Colchester County, lead Christopher McCurdy of Old Barns, and coach Craig Burgess of Hilden the greatest of success. They will proudly represent Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

NAGINA, OKSANA: CROSSWALK ADVOCACY - RECOG.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from Clayton Park West: Oksana Nagina.

Oksana first contacted my office regarding her concerns over a school bus stop on Wentworth Drive in Rockingham South area. She advocated for a crosswalk to be installed. Working with our local councillor, Kathryn Morse, I visited the site and concurred that it would be a safety risk for our children crossing the road. Our thanks to our councillor, Kathryn Morse, who got the HRM staff to investigate, and a crosswalk was installed within a few weeks. It's citizens like Oksana who make my riding of Clayton Park West a safer place to live.

I ask the House to join me in expressing our gratitude to citizens like Oksana Nagina who contribute to the safety of our neighbourhood.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

CLARKE, AL & MAXINE: BUILT ENV. AWD. - CONGRATS.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure in congratulating Al and Maxine Clarke of Oxford.

Al and Maxine are beloved trail stewards of the Bunny Trail and have given countless hours of hard work and dedication to keeping the trail safe and enjoyable, helping folks access nature. Al and Maxine were the recipients of a Built Environment Award as part of the Recreation Nova Scotia awards for their work on the trails.

Please join me in congratulating Maxine and Al on receiving this prestigious award and thank them for their dedication to the trail. We in Cumberland South are extremely proud of them and thankful for their commitment to this trail. Yes, Maxine, I owe you a trip on the trail once this Legislature rises.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

JACQUES DEVEAU & FRIENDS: MUSIC CONTRIBS. - THANKS

RONNIE LEBLANC: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions of Jacques Deveau & Friends to the community of Clare.

Along with Marguerite LeBlanc, Cindy LeBlanc, and Desire LeBlanc, Jacques Deveau forms a quartet that embodies the essence of our rich musical heritage and generous spirit. This group is a familiar presence at the Meteghan Lions Club monthly dinner, where they entertain their neighbours, adding joy to this beloved community gathering.

Furthermore, their generosity extends to the countless benefits and fundraisers over the years, particularly during the holiday season when they participate in events like the Christmas fundraiser, Papa Noël, and perform at both the Christmas Community Dinner and the Christmas for the Holidays celebrations.

I ask that all members join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Jacques Deveau & Friends for their selfless contributions and for making every event they attend truly special.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens.

WHYNOT, DONALD: RETIREMENT - BEST WISHES

HON. KIM MASLAND: I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Whynot, who will soon be retiring as Chief of the Mill Village & District Fire Department after 34 years of exemplary service in the role. Donald joined the Fire Department in 1977 before being elected as Chief in 1989.

Through his impressive leadership, selfless dedication, and the inclusive culture he has nurtured, Donald has ensured the highest of standards within his department. This includes the recruitment and retention of new members who relish being part of his team, and the undertaking of fundraising initiatives to finance the maintenance and purchase of essential firefighting equipment.

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I thank Donald for his dedicated service to the community, and I wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life. You will be missed, Chief.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

STRONG, DEREK: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Speaker, I rise to recognize Derek Strong, a familiar face at the annual St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale and a dedicated volunteer who has a genuine concern for residents in his general community.

This past Christmas, Derek helped sell 700 real balsam fir trees to provide funding to support people in the community throughout the year. The money raised selling Christmas trees was used to purchase food certificates for the residents affected by the wildfires in our region, for breakfast programs at two elementary schools, and for bursaries for students graduating from Bay View High School. Money was also given to help the Bay View hockey team, the 250 Vimy Air Cadets, and the 328 St. Margaret's Bay Sea Cadets in exchange for their assistance unloading the trees and helping the Lions to sell and carry trees to customers.

I'd like the members of the House of Assembly to join me in thanking Derek for generously giving his time and experience in supporting community-based organizations and making a difference in the lives of people in our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

INDUCTEES: SACK. SPORTS HER. HALL OF FAME - CONGRATS.

HON. STEVE CRAIG: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate last year's 2023 inductees to the Sackville Sports Heritage Hall of Fame.

The Sackville Sports Heritage Foundation was established in 1981 with a mandate to honour amateur athletes, teams, and administrators involved in local competition and beyond.

The following 2023 inductees were honoured last year: Shawn Healey, builder and coach in gymnastics; Paula O'Connell, athlete in arm wrestling; Pat Henneberry, builder and coach in basketball; Mike Lidstone, builder and coach in wrestling; Gord Dwyer, builder and official in hockey, who also refereed the Stanley Cup finals last year; Darrell Dempster, builder and coach in athletics, wrestling, and school sports; and Chris Scott, athlete in arm wrestling.

I would like to ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the 2023 Sackville Sports Heritage Hall of Fame inductees and wish them continued success.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford Basin.

BEDFORD PLAYERS: THEATRICAL SUCCESS - CONGRATS.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Speaker, I want to congratulate the Bedford Players on their most recent theatrical offering, *Unassisted Living*. This year, the Players performed two one-act plays by J.L. Alan: *Some Guy from the Internet* and *Octogenarians of Anarchy*. The plays ran until March 16th.

Community theatre has a proud history in Bedford that goes back to at least the 1950s. At one time, there were actually two community theatre groups operating, which is pretty amazing when you consider how small Bedford was back then. These days, the theatre troupe operates out of the church hall at All Saints Anglican Church. Money raised from this season will go to support the work of the Beacon House food bank, and we all know how important that assistance is these days.

I want to congratulate the cast, crew, and everyone involved in this latest production for their theatrical success, and their kindness to those experiencing food insecurity in our area.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Shelburne.

SHEL. RE-ENACT. ASSOC.: HIST. PRES. - RECOG.

NOLAN YOUNG: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shelburne Re-enactment Association, known as the New Jersey Volunteers 3rd Battalion, and their effort to preserve Shelburne's Loyalist history. The regiment is the largest active living-history group in the Maritimes. It has a membership consisting of children and adults, and demonstrates a historically accurate re-enactment of 18th century life, with everything from uniforms to

camp life being 100 per cent authentic. They do a great job, too. The regiment is on the waterfront every Sunday, performing military drills as well as various events throughout the county and the province.

I respectfully ask all members to join me in thanking the members of the regiment for keeping this Loyalist history alive.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Membertou.

CAPE BRETON POST: CONTRIBS. TO COM. - RECOG.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Speaker, I rise in my place to recognize the *Cape Breton Post*. The *Cape Breton Post* is part of the SaltWire Network, which we all know is going through a transition, but I do want to rise in my place and recognize our local newspaper, which plays a very significant part in our community. I have a 13-year-and-change relationship with them, both in municipal and provincial politics. They were tough and they were fair, and they were balanced every time. You build relationships with these people. These are families in the community. Not only do they do excellent work as a newspaper, but they also contribute a lot back to the community.

I do want to give a quick example for how important local journalism is. The story about fat grafting was done by the *Cape Breton Post*. The story around doctors being able to purchase homes when they come here that was a national policy change, that was written by Barb Sweet of the *Cape Breton Post*.

Local journalism matters. I rise in my place to recognize everyone at the *Cape Breton Post*.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

E. DART. CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

HON. TIMOTHY HALMAN: Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the volunteers at the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank.

These hard-working community members, led by Shaureen Taweel, spend much of their time ensuring that donated food reaches those who need it most. I've had the opportunity to tour this food bank many times - the last visit was with the Premier - and I can say with absolute certainty to this House that every donation is put to its best possible use, and that the hard work displayed by Shaureen and her team are an example to all. Feeding our fellow community members is an honourable goal, and I'm very grateful for the volunteers who make this possible.

I ask the members of this House to please join me in thanking Shaureen Taweel and her team at the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

[4:45 p.m.]

SKINNER, JAMES: HOUSING EFFORTS - RECOG.

HON. KEITH IRVING: I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual from Wolfville who recognized the urgency of housing the unhoused and he acted. From sourcing tents to organizing essential supplies and providing a sympathetic ear, James Skinner's dedication to supporting the unhoused deserves our thanks.

His compassionate response to the unhoused crisis exemplifies the spirit of finding solutions within the strength of our communities. Individuals like James embody the values of compassion and solidarity that we need to solve our province's most difficult social challenges. His selfless efforts reflect the essence of Nova Scotian kindness and generosity.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing and thanking James Skinner for his unwavering commitment to supporting citizens facing urgent housing needs and for forming a path forward for sustainable solutions.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston.

VARIN, LARRY: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. TWILA GROSSE: I rise today to recognize Larry Varin. Larry has been a member of Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services for 28 years in a volunteer capacity, and now it is his career. He is responsible for conducting fire inspections, fire investigations, and delivery of fire safety presentations. He continues to volunteer for the Greenfield and District Fire Department.

When the Tantallon wildfire happened in 2023, Mr. Varin assisted the wildland fire investigator from Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and various other government departments in the origin and cause investigation of the fire. He also conducted logistical needs for Fire Prevention & Safety in support of the fire.

Larry is Chairperson of the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Benevolent Society and Vice Chair of the Fisherman's Cove Development Association. Larry has also served in the Canadian Navy, retiring with the rank of Master Seaman.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to please join with me to recognize and thank Mr. Varin for his years of volunteer service and his assistance with the Tantallon wildfire.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

SHABALINA, ANNA: SOUL STRINGS MUSIC SCHOOL - RECOG.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Today I rise to shine a spotlight on Anna Shabalina, the talented owner of Soul Strings Music School. Her music becomes a journey of self-discovery and mastery.

With over 15 years of experience, Anna's music program is carefully crafted to nurture students into professional musicians, offering a unique learning environment that is both enriching and productive. Anna's passion for music knows no bounds, as evidenced by her extensive travels and collaborations with musicians from around the globe.

Fairview-Clayton Park has become her chosen home, providing her with the perfect platform to explore diverse cultures and share her love of music through performances and teaching. Anna's exceptional talent and creativity have earned her widespread acclaim, with her unique sound transcending boundaries and captivating audiences worldwide. Whether through live performances or recordings, Anna's technical prowess and musical versatility continue to leave a mark on the world of music.

I commend Anna for her dedication to her craft and encourage all members to take in one of her live performances. It is an experience to remember.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River.

DESLAURIERS, SARIBEL: BUSINESS HONOUR - CONGRATS.

DAVE RITCEY: I rise today to congratulate Saribel Deslauriers on being named one of Atlantic Canada's 25 Most Powerful Women in Business.

Saribel is the Executive Director of the Downtown Truro Partnership, and this prestigious nomination is a testament to her outstanding leadership, innovation, and impact on the business world in our region. Saribel's dedication, vision, and unwavering determination have set her apart as a trailblazer and role model for aspiring leaders. Her achievements not only inspire colleagues and peers but also highlight her significant contributions to the advancement of business and empowerment of women in the Atlantic region.

I applaud Saribel for this well-deserved honour and look forward to witnessing her continued success and influence in the years to come.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford South.

CONLEY, DAVID: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

BRAEDON CLARK: I just want to echo comments that were made earlier by my colleague from Bedford Basin regarding the passing of David Conley.

Mr. Conley, as I knew him, was a longtime teacher at the elementary school that I went to - Basinview Drive Community School - and where my son goes now. I first got to know him through basketball, which I was quite involved in and he was very involved in. I remember seeing Mr. Conley walking around. He was a big walker. He was also very involved, as the member said, with Bedford Academy. I remember running into him last Summer when he was dropping kids off at the Bedford Lions Club pool. He was just a wonderful, community-minded guy, one of the people that we all know in our constituencies who are the bedrock of our communities. I want to recognize Mr. Conley. It was a great loss for his family, of course, but for the broader community of Bedford as well.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Passage.

STEPHENSON, MICK & MARILLA: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: Speaker, I rise today to recognize two wonderful pillars of the community of Eastern Passage, Michael “Mick” Stephenson and his late wife Marilla.

Mick and Marilla shared over 60 years of marriage in Eastern Passage, enriching our community with their presence. Together, they ran a successful business for many years, both selflessly giving their time to numerous organizations.

Mick is a founding member of the Eastern Passage Knights of Columbus, as well as the local athletic association, sharing his passion for sports as a dedicated hockey and baseball coach. Marilla was a long-time member and founding president of the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Benevolent Society, also spending 50 years as member and past president of the St. Andrews CWL until her passing in 2020.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in recognizing Mick and Marilla Stephenson for a lifetime of dedication to our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Dartmouth.

DENNIS, CONNIE: *PICKLES THE OSPREY* AUTHOR - RECOG.

LORELEI NICOLL: Speaker, today I stand to recognize a local Dartmouth-based author, Connie Dennis. Connie has written an educational children's book about Portland Estates' beloved osprey named Pickles, and his family that have been in the nest at Russell Lake for many years. It captures the story of Pickles the Osprey and is raising funds for Hope for Wildlife. Did you know that the osprey is the provincial bird of Nova Scotia? I invite you to go on an adventure with Pickles the Osprey and learn more about this amazing creature. Connie will be at Chapters in Dartmouth on April 6th, signing copies of her heartwarming tale. Thank you to Connie Dennis, her husband Don Dennis, and illustrator Greg David for sharing the adventures of Pickles the Osprey and teaching us all about the amazing creature living right here in our neighbourhood.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants West.

PETERS, AMANDA: *FIRST NOVEL SUCCESS* - CONGRATS.

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Acadia University Associate Professor Amanda Peters on the overwhelming success of her first novel, *The Berry Pickers*. Amanda found inspiration for this story from her father, whose family was one of the many Mi'kmaw families who left the Maritimes in the 1960s and 1970s, bound for Maine, to pick blueberries. *The Berry Pickers* won the 2023 Barnes & Noble Discover Award and the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, along with other nominations and achievements, such as placing second on Amazon's Best Books of 2023.

Although Amanda has travelled the world, she found her way back home and lives in Falmouth with her fur babies, just across the street from her sister's family. While sharing her love of reading and writing with students at Acadia University, she is already working on her next book, *Waiting for the Long Night Moon*, a collection of short fiction. I have no doubt that her next book will be nothing short of exceptional as well.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

KELLEY, KATIE: *MAR. INTERPRET. & TRANSLATION* - RECOG.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Speaker, I rise today to recognize an inspiring young female entrepreneur in my riding. I had the privilege to meet Katie Kelley, who owns and operates Maritime Interpreting and Translation. Maritime Interpreting and Translation is an interpreting and translation organization that bridges the gap in communication through interpreting and document translation in over 40 languages. They provide clarity to non-English-speaking clients in their native languages, serving clients across Canada. I'm proud to stand and say that Maritime Interpreting and Translation is WBE-certified, which means

they are recognized as a Canadian women-owned brand. I ask the House to join me in congratulating Katie Kelley on this successful female-owned business.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Glace Bay-Dominion.

STAFF: VICTORIA HAVEN NURSING HOME - THANKS

JOHN WHITE: Speaker, the MacLeod Victoria Haven Nursing Home in Glace Bay is led by Penney and Brenda, and they are absolutely amazing. I know this because I see it first-hand quite often. The Recreation Director, Doreen, and physiotherapist Candida are two more examples of staff who go above and beyond to ensure the residents have a good day.

Too many to name, but the CCAs, support staff and nurses are extraordinary, indeed. For example, on Naval Day staff built a ship in the lounge, and each employee was dressed up to match with a resident as they went on a trip. They packed suitcases to go on an imaginary trip, and the website shows a parade of residents smiling as they go out on their voyage.

A few months ago, they arranged for the world-renowned Johnny Reid to come in and meet truly his greatest fan. Every Sunday, they have a party called the Sunday Funday, and it's not uncommon for staff to volunteer for this. Compassion at its best, indeed. Thank you to the staff of Victoria Haven, and to all of our long-term care facilities for taking care of our most beloved seniors.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

RECIPS.: ST. BERNARD VFD AWDS. - RECOG.

RONNIE LEBLANC: I rise today to highlight the recent banquet held by the St. Bernard Volunteer Fire Department on December 2nd. This annual event serves as a moment to honour the dedicated service and commitment of its members. Among the evening's notable traditions is the presentation of long service awards to its members.

At this year's ceremony, the department honoured Russell Belliveau, Daniel Gaudet, Cory Muise, and Daniel Muise as they were each presented with their esteemed 35 Year Service Award. Their unwavering commitment to the St. Bernard Volunteer Fire Department is truly commendable, having made this commitment at a young age and faithfully upheld it throughout their adult lives. I invite all members to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Russell Belliveau, Daniel Gaudet, Cory Muise, and Daniel Muise for their remarkable 35 years of service to the St. Bernard Volunteer Fire Department.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

S. COLCH. ACAD.: MI'KMAQ CULTURE PROM. - RECOG.

LARRY HARRISON: For the past three years, students in Grade 8 Technology at South Colchester Academy have been making Mi'kmaw eight-pointed stars as their initial woodworking project. The stars have been distributed to teachers throughout the school for display in classrooms, the cultural alliance room, the library, and other spaces. Some have been delivered to teachers at the elementary school as well as other schools.

The eight-pointed star is a symbol of unity, as well as the path of the sun, with white representing north, yellow east, red south, and black west. I wish to recognize South Colchester Academy for ensuring its students are made aware of this important aspect of the Mi'kmaq culture.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

HUNDSCHIED, ELLIE: VIBRANT SPIRIT - RECOG.

HON. PAT DUNN: Speaker, at 92 years young, Ellie Hundscheid is a testament to vitality and zest for life. With a twinkle in her eye and a contagious energy that defies her age, she navigates through each day with balanced enthusiasm. Her vibrant spirit radiates through every aspect of her being, from her lively conversations to her spontaneous laughter that fills the room. Despite the passage of time, Ellie remains an active member of her community, embodying the mantra that age is just a number.

One of Ellie's most remarkable traits is her unwavering independence, demonstrated by her continued ability to drive her friends to various events. Behind the wheel of her dependable car, she becomes the embodiment of freedom, fearlessly navigating the roads with the same competence she possessed in her youth. To Ellie, driving isn't just a means of transportation; it's a symbol of her resilience and determination to live on her own terms.

Her friends and neighbours marvel at her boundless energy and admire her unwavering optimism.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Guysborough-Tracadie.

COUNTRY HBR. GUN CLUB: 50TH ANNIV. - RECOG.

HON. GREG MORROW: I rise today to recognize the Country Harbour Gun Club, celebrating their 50th year in the community. It started in a church basement in 1974 with a group of four community members and an idea. Others joined in, and it was decided to build the facility. When it first opened, it was an actual gun club for shooting competitions, but was also used as a space for community events.

Over the years it has hosted bingo, card nights, dart league, wedding, open mic nights, winter carnivals, and community meals. Of course, I could not forget to mention the Smokey Hollow Holidays Festival that takes place every August. It's also known for hosting some great local ball teams in some friendly competition on the field next to the club.

Volunteers are the heart of this organization, Speaker, and it's their commitment to fundraising and applying for grants over the years that has kept the Gun Club going. There is a lengthy list of longtime members who have been involved since the early days, however I know that AJ MacIsaac, one of the original members, is currently serving as president and has a great team on the executive.

[5:00 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: Before I recognize the honourable Government House Leader, I would like to rule on the member for Cumberland North's point of order. Having reviewed the transcript for the questions and response referred to by the honourable member for Cumberland North in her point of order earlier today, I note that the reference to "fearmongering and scaring people" by the honourable Minister of Health and Wellness was not directed at the member for Cumberland North but directed generally at the goings-on in the Chamber.

However, the transcript also reveals that the member for Cumberland North was aware of the issue on Friday, near the onset of her comments on Bill No. 149. During second reading, she alleged "the Minister said that I was fearmongering and scaring people, which is quite an accusation to make here in the House." Thus, the member also subsequently said that "I do not believe that I was fearmongering and trying to scare people," and later, "I'm not fearmongering," finally stating, "When the minister accuses me of fearmongering." This shows that the member was aware of the comments and could have raised a point of order at that time.

Points of order should be raised at the moment of the irregularity, or as soon as possible thereafter. Thus, even if the language had been unparliamentary, the point of order should have been raised when the member became aware of the comments on Friday. Accordingly, the point of order is dismissed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, I move that you do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

We'll have a brief recess before we start Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

[5:14 p.m. The House resolved into a CWH on Bills with Deputy Speaker Danielle Barkhouse in the Chair.]

[7:42 p.m. CWH on Bills rose and the House reconvened with Deputy Speaker Nolan Young in the Chair.]

THE SPEAKER: Order. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on Bills reports:

THE CLERK: That the Committee of the Whole House on Bills has met and considered the following bills: Bill No. 407, with certain amendments, and Bill No. 404, which was reported with certain amendments by the Law Amendments Committee to the Committee of the Whole House without further amendments. The Chair has been instructed to recommend these bills to the favourable consideration of the House.

THE SPEAKER: Ordered that these bills be read again a third time on a future day.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: That concludes government business for the day. I move that the House do now rise to meet again on March 26th between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Following the daily routine, government business will include Committee of the Whole House on Supply and Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that we do now rise to meet again on March 26th between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We stand adjourned until tomorrow.

[The House rose at 7:43 p.m.]