

Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society



Monthly Newsletter

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Our Story:

On April 18th & 19th the most unimaginable tragedy forever changed the story of rural Nova Scotia. What we thought could never happen here has directly impacted the community of West Colchester as well as Wentworth, Shubenacadie and Enfield.

In the days following, a dedicated group of volunteers came forward to create a powerful channel to focus the love and light of the province and the country to support a space for grief and healing for those families and communities who needed it the most. In this most extraordinary time of global pandemic, it was necessary to find ways to grieve together as a community, without actually being together physically the way we otherwise would.

A Facebook group: [Colchester Supporting Our Communities](#) (now almost 80k strong) was created where people from across the country and around the world can share their support for the families and communities hurting the most. The group is filled with beautiful photos, artwork, and messages of love and support shared from coast to coast.



*Credit: Bob Brassat
Posted to Colchester: Supporting Our Communities*

Strength

We gain strength in the most ironic way.

We find it when we are weakest; when we think that we are breaking.

Into a shattered chaos we learn to have strength to let go of what doesn't make us strong.

*Chrissie Pinney
Posted to Colchester: Supporting Our Communities*

Through this network and with help and support of new found friends we went on to create and produce the [Virtual Vigil: Nova Scotia Remembers](#) that was broadcast online and on air across Canada on Friday April 24th. The vigil brought together Nova Scotia talent along with local faith, community, and business leaders in a demonstration of love and solidarity with the families, friends, and neighbors of those lost.

As we move forward united, the next logical step for us is the creation of The Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society. Our organization will strive to provide continued support to the families and the communities affected by these events over the long-term.

As a grassroots non-profit organization, we hope to lead our community in regaining its unique rural identity and champion the resiliency we have demonstrated over these past weeks towards the best possible outcomes for the families and for us all. Together we can pave a path towards a better future by being there for one another in any way that we can.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those special friends who have worked tirelessly with us in our efforts:

Development, production and distribution of the Nova Scotia Remembers Virtual Vigil: Sylvia Beirnes, Matt Trecartin, Jonathan Torrens & Alex White

Support with media inquiries: Eric Michaud

Ongoing support and moderation of our Facebook Group: Haley Beal, Brittany Brown, Rebecca MacAulay, Mia Ward & Todd White

Our Focus:

Education: Financial support for children of those lost, in the form of payment toward their post-secondary education, the creation of scholarships in memory of the victims to support youth in the affected communities as well as other scholarships, bursaries and educational supports.

Memorial: Develop and construct one or more permanent memorials in affected communities to honour the memory of those lost.

Community Development: Develop initiatives and provide financial support to partner organizations working in the affected communities to support growth and recovery.

Coordinated Wellness, Emotional, & Grief Support: For families of the victims as well as other affected individuals and communities. Ideally this involves collaborating with community and other agencies or entities to provide long term support to those who need it.



The Portaupique United Church memorial site. Community members worked together to combine the roadside memorials in late May.

Our Status & Next Steps:

Working with our legal and financial partners we are nearing the finish line on our organization's incorporation with our founding board in place. Our next steps are to formalize our mission and goals, develop our working policies, and work through the application process for charitable status from the CRA.

We are beginning to have collaborative conversations with other organizations in the community with which we have common interests in hopes of developing effective partnerships to meet some of our stated goals. We believe that we are stronger together and look forward to working with others towards a brighter future for our shore.

We have received a number of donations to date including a substantial donation of approximately \$40k raised through the Cobequid Spirit Online Auction. Special thanks to Anna Grue, Joelle McLaughlin and Karen Gilbert of Spirit Reins Ranch for their amazing work on this initiative, to all of those individuals and businesses who donated items, to those that bid as well as Victoria Hall and Bayside Pharmacy for their amazing support.



The Cobequid Spirit Team: l-r Marlee Leslie, Joelle McLaughlin, Anna Grue, Bill & Karen Gilbert.

Many other organizations and individuals have pledged their support and we are so thankful for all. We will be working to put the structures in place that will allow us to use the funds to support the families and communities in our key focus areas. Many thanks also to the Municipality of Colchester which is holding many of our donations in trust until we are able to accept them ourselves.

You can visit our websites www.novascotiaremembers.ca and www.heartcolchester.ca for fundraising information for our organization as well as the Red Cross Stronger Together Fund and verified Go Fund Me fundraisers in support of individual families. A special thanks goes to David Seviour at Bluecore Media for all of his support.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the families and communities impacted by this tragedy in any way, as without your support these difficult times would be even darker.

So, from the bottom of our hearts: Thank You!

Vangie Beal, Roberta Lattie, Tory Phinney, Mary Teed, Cees van den Hoek & Tiff Ward

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