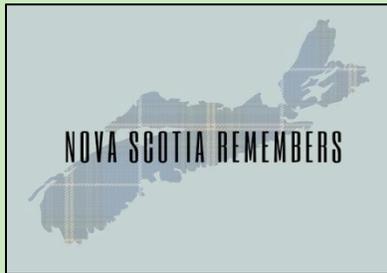


Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society



Quarterly Newsletter

September 2020

Volume: 1; Issue: 2

** Note: We have moved to a quarterly issue**

Incorporation Update:

We are expecting our official legal incorporation to be completed in the coming days! We have spent the summer working with our legal team on our organizational and governance structure to ensure that the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society is able to carry out its mandate effectively in our communities.

Once in place, incorporation will allow us to move forward quickly with projects and tasks we have developed to start our work towards helping our community heal. The next step is to obtain charitable status from the Canada Revenue Agency, a task that our legal team is currently undertaking with the goal of attaining the status by December 31st.

All pledged donations and those currently held in trust by the Municipality of Colchester requiring a receipt will be issued a one at that time. Should there be a delay, the Municipality will issue receipts at year-end for those donations already submitted. Thank you to all for your continued support!



Special Event: Dr. Joe Michael, Mi'kmaq Elder

On August 10th, members of the executive were hosted by Dr. Joe Michael, Mi'kmaq Elder and Dale Bogle, CAO of the Town of Stewiacke at Dr. Joe Michael's traditional Mi'kmaq Teepee at his home in the Indian Brook Mi'kmaq Community.

Dr. Joe shared with us traditional Mi'kmaq teachings, including traditional drumming performed by Greg Marr. Dr. Joe Michael shared his beautiful paintings that he created in response to the tragic events in April. Dr. Joe shared that he was guided to paint these meaningful pieces immediately following the event and explained that each painting represented one of the victims lost.

Dr. Joe Michael later hosted an open house on August 27th and welcomes those impacted by the tragedy to experience traditional Mi'kmaq healing with him at his teepee.

Dr. Joe Michael, Mi'kmaq Elder sharing teachings and his artwork from his traditional Mi'kmaq teepee in Indian Brook.

Status of Working Groups Committees

Over the summer months, our society has been recruiting interested individuals and other stakeholders to establish and develop working groups in each of our four areas of work: Education, Memorial, Coordinated Wellness, Emotional, & Grief Support & Community Development. Each working group either has or will establish their own terms of reference, leadership, and governance structures to guide their work towards achieving the overall stated goals of the society.

Each working group will seek meaningful partnerships with non-profit organizations, governments, and other interested parties who share our vision of a brighter future for the impacted communities. Working groups may also undertake fundraising initiatives to initiate projects in support of families, victims, and communities. For more information or to get involved please contact Tiff at novascotiaremembers@gmail.com.

Please see updates below:

Education Working Group

Our Education Working Group is getting organized and is being chaired by Chad Peck, a local high school teacher in partnership with the executive of the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society.

This working group is currently in discussions with potential partners to help reach the goals of providing post-secondary funding for the children of victims, creating scholarships and bursaries in memory of those lost, and developing other opportunities to support youth in the impacted communities with their educational endeavors.

If you are interested in donating or sponsoring a scholarship or bursary, please email chad.peck@gmail.com.

Memorial Working Group

The Memorial Working Group has been underway since June and has expanded recently to a team of 8 including members of our executive.

The group is currently researching the experiences of other communities that have undergone similar events and connecting with individuals in those communities to seek guidance on best practice in consultation, development, and maintenance long term memorial spaces.

Recognizing that grief and healing follow no particular timeline, the work of this group will endeavor to move at a pace that is sensitive to the needs of victims and families.

Coordinated Wellness, Emotional, & Grief Support

This working group is currently in its early development phase. With the support of Serena Lewis, we are working on outlining several projects that will support the long-term wellness and emotional well being of those impacted by trauma and grief. The group will be working on creating opportunities for education and support- supporting collective healing for the months and years to come.

Community Development

We recognize the important role that community development can have in supporting the resiliency of our rural communities as we regain a sense of identity moving forward. Over the long term, our society will look to lead initiatives that will bring people together in support of one another, ensuring a brighter future for us all. We intend to explore development of projects to support youth, older individuals, and families. This may include programming, facilities, and/or recreational spaces. This Community Development working group is currently finalizing its broad objectives and will be recruiting for membership in the coming weeks.

The Portapique Church Memorial Site

Through consultation with families, community members, and others impacted by the horrific tragedies that took place in April, the executive members of our society have taken long and careful consideration regarding the roadside memorial at the Portapique Church Site. We recognize the varied needs of family, friends, and community and believe that it is now time to move forward to promote the healing process for all. Therefore, on **September 5, 2020** the roadside memorial will be carefully taken down and the items put into safe storage.

By taking this action now in early September while the weather is still favourable, we are better able to preserve as much as possible for the long term. Nova Scotia's autumns tend to be fraught with harsh winds and rain, and we feel it would be best to move items into safe storage ahead of the season to ensure items are safe from the elements.

We want to thank all of you who have contributed to this site and the heartfelt support you have shown for the victims, families, communities, and all of Nova Scotia. A huge thank you to the Portapique Church Site for acting as a temporary memorial and taking such great care of the items that were left by so many to honour the victims. Thank you to the residents of Portapique who have shared this community space with those who are hurting and in need of a place to grieve. Thank you to the members of *Colchester Supporting our Communities* who continue to send their love and



Next Steps:

We will continue to develop our working groups and the projects that will be undertaken to reach our society's goals. To inform our work, we are planning on engaging with victims, families, and other stakeholders formally over the next few months to ensure that families, victims, and community members have a voice in our work. We will use what we learn to guide the organization in creating the best possible services, supports, and/or facilities to help us move forward in our recovery together, at a pace that meets the needs of all of those impacted.

We welcome any feedback and can be contacted at heartcolchester@eastlink.ca or novascotiaremembers@gmail.com.

Join us on Facebook: Colchester Supporting Our Communities:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/162084731778930>

As always, 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.

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

Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

