PASSAGES

THE LONG ISLAND, BRIER ISLAND, AND DIGBY NECK NEWS

The Slocum Boot Shop opens

Local authors debut new sci-fi novel

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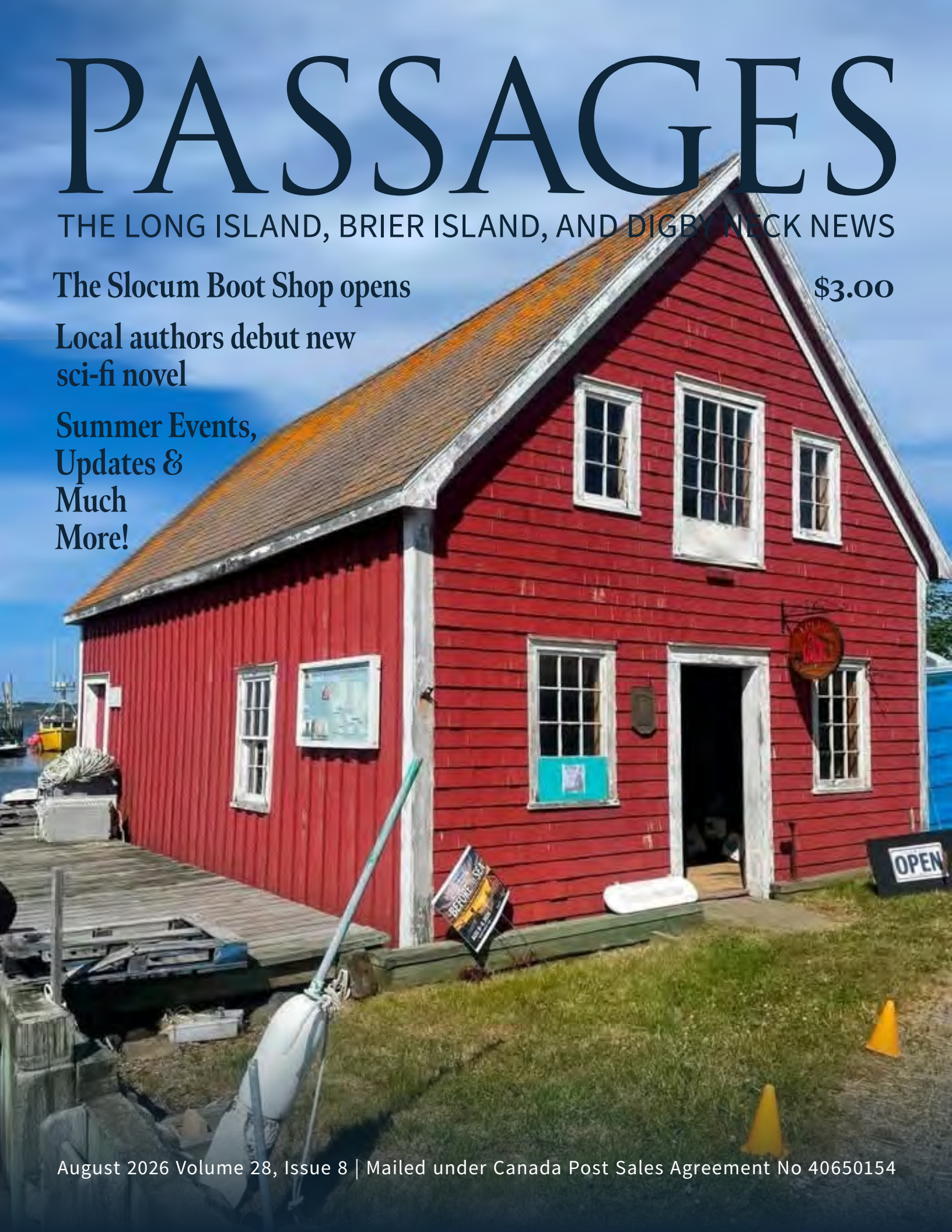

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PASSAGES

Effective June 1st, 2026
PASSAGES has been published every month since February 1999. Thank you for your continued support. Passages is a project of the Freeport Community Development Association (FCDA), a non-profit organization that works to support and strengthen community life on the Islands and the Neck. When you support PASSAGES, you help keep this magazine going and contribute to the many other community projects the FCDA carries out in the area.

PASSAGES is a magazine about life on Long Island, Brier Island, Digby Neck, and the Bay of Fundy. We cover local history, nature, people, and the stories that reflect the character of this place and the communities that call it home. Our goal is to inform, connect, and give readers something worth sitting down with.

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www.PassagesNews.ca

PASSAGES
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We appreciate all the submissions we receive and encourage everyone to keep sending in your own photos, stories and story ideas. Passages is our shared history and your contributions are important!

Sending in items to PASSAGES is easy!
You can email us at **passageseditor@gmail.com** or send submissions to us on facebook.

Please send all submissions as separate text and image files (no formatted layouts, please). Text can be as simple as just sending it in an email, or you can send a Word or Google doc.

Hover your phone's camera here to join our facebook group!

On our cover:

Slocum's Boot Shop has been brought back to life this summer!
Photo: **Kristina Inrig**

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WESTPORT LIBRARY NEWS

- People can receive their hold notifications via text messages.
- The book drop is always open.
- For all renewals, call **902-839-2955** during open hours, email the library, or visit the library website www.westerncounties.ca.
- People can drop off items borrowed from the library at Old School Stop & Shop in Freeport.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesdays 1:30 to 5 p.m.
Wednesdays 3:30 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursdays 1:30 to 5 p.m.
Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The library is closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

PROGRAMMING IN AUGUST

FIBRE ARTS GROUP
Tuesdays, August 4, 11, & 18 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Join this fun group for a great way to learn a new needlecraft skill or to work on a project in progress. This program is for adults.

The Novel Bunch Reading Group:
The Metamorphosis
Tuesday, August 25 from 10:15 to 12:15 pm.
The book club will be reviewing *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. The story of salesman Gregor Samsa, who wakes to find himself inexplicably transformed into a huge insect. This program is for adults.

Western Counties Regional Library

17 Second St., Westport | westport@westerncounties.ca | 902-839-2955

Felting a Lighthouse

July 16th workshop at Hammer & Sky

SUBMITTED BY BRIER ISLAND FOUNDATION

Something amazing happened on Brier Island last month. It was the kind of night that makes you proud to live in a small community with big ideas and great collaboration. It was a night where the arts met residents in the moment and brought laughter and joy to children and adults alike.

On July 16th, a community felting workshop brought children and youth together with felter Janet Patterson from Whitehorse, Yukon. Patterson was on the island as part of the Hammer & Sky Studios artist residency program. She was the first recipient of the residency Fellowship launched this year by Hammer & Sky with support from the Brier Island Foundation, Hammer & Sky and other donors. The Fellowship supports an artist to come to Brier Island for a two-week stay with residency fees paid and they receive $1,000 af the end of their residency.

Hammer & Sky Studios is a non-profit that was founded in 2018 by Jane Zdansky and John Schwinghamer. With ten years of nurturing arts and community on the island, Hammer & Sky is now at a point where it can give back through the new Fellowship program. In addition to hosting nearly 40 artists all summer long who contribute to arts and the local economy on the island, the Fellowship is an opportunity to showcase one artist in particular. Janet Patterson was thrilled to be invited back to Brier Island this year as the 2026 recipient.

As part of her time on Brier Island this summer, Janet wanted to give back to the community. Knowing that lighthouse restoration on Peters Island was a local priority, she suggested a community art project that would result in a felted wall hanging of the lighthouse. The idea captured the imagination of the region. Many residents dropped in during her first week to check out the felting process and see what was coming together.

Patterson wanted to get the island kids involved as well. She walked down Water Street on her first few days on the island and spotted a local youth at her art stand near the Slocum Boot Shop. That youth was Jasmine Inrig and she was running her own summer project called “Art by the Sea.” Janet explained the felting project and asked Jasmine if she would be interested in coming to

Hammer & Sky to check it out. She also wondered if perhaps there were other kids on the island who might be interested and they could order pizza and make a night of it.

Sitting across the street from this encounter was Jasmine's mom, Kristina Inrig, who was doing some Slocum summer reading while keeping the Boot Shop open for tourists. Jasmine directed Janet to her mom and suggested that they talk! Since Kristina heads up the Brier Island Foundation and knew about the art project already, she was thrilled to get involved.

By the time Patterson was back to her felting table, a total of 9 kids had already responded to Kristina's messages for a pizza and felting party. There was so much interest that the poster she created for Janet wasn't even posted! The event was already full!

In the end, 12 children and youth took part in the event and many more adults participated or came by to watch the event unfold. Janet ordered pizza from Old School Stop and Shop and Kristina filled her van with kids, taking two trips to pick everyone up.

At the workshop, Janet explained the art of felting. She introduced participants to the project and shared how they would go about the work. The shape of the lighthouse had been laid out but it needed to be completely felted in along with several additional features from little birds to whale tails in the water. The children took turns at different spots around the art work. Janet instructed them in each step and then moved on to support others who were just learning or thinking about trying. There was curiosity, hesitation, confidence, and fun. Most importantly, there was laughter and a collective contribution to something bigger.

By the end of the night, felt had been added to many parts of the project.

The lighthouse had been filled in and several more birds and shades had appeared throughout. There was still work to be done by Janet and other helpers over the coming week, but a significant milestone had been reached.

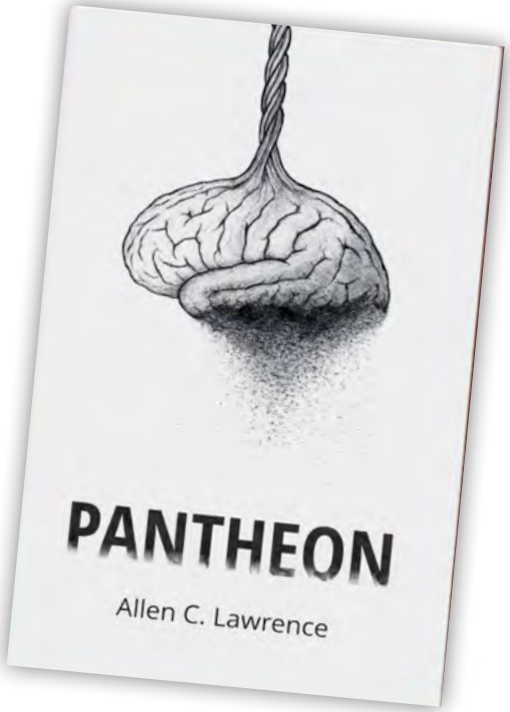
The final project was unveiled at a Hammer & Sky open house on July 23rd. Alongside other artists in residence who were featured that day, the beautiful felted lighthouse and Peters Island was shared with the community.

For the Brier Island Foundation, this special partnership with Hammer & Sky Studios and felter Janet Patterson was an amazing way to bring the community together for a memorable night of arts on the island.

ICS NEWS

The ICS Grads of 2026! Above: L-R: Ian Perry, Michael Millar, Rhys Crocker, Noah Flynn-MacDougall, Tegan Theriault, Ally Guier, Laura Guier, and Stephanie Lombard. Best of luck, graduates!

Local Authors Team Up to Publish Debut Sci-Fi Novel



Two local writers have joined forces to publish their first novel under the shared pen name Allen C. Lawrence.

Francis McCullough and Christopher Prime have spent the past several years collaborating on Pantheon, a science fiction thriller that explores a future where powerful corporations wield god-like influence, memories can be manipulated, and technology offers the promise of virtual immortality.

Set in a futuristic Solar System, the novel follows Mark Church, a celebrated hero turned police chief whose investigation into a decades-old murder uncovers secrets that threaten an all-powerful corporation's vision of the afterlife.

Pantheon is expected to be released in the second half of August and will be available worldwide through Amazon in paperback, hardcover, and ebook formats.

The authors say this is only the beginning, with work already underway on their next novel.

Keep an eye out for Pantheon later this summer—and support two local writers as they launch their debut into the world.

Do You Remember the Stirling County Study?

PASSAGES EDITOR MONICA STARK

In the early 1950s, researchers from the Stirling County Study spent years living and working throughout Digby Neck and the Islands. They interviewed hundreds of local residents, photographed daily life, and documented our communities in what would become one of the world's longest-running mental health studies.

I'm currently researching the history of the study and, while there is a great deal of information about the researchers themselves, I'm especially interested in the Islanders' perspective. Did you, your parents, or your grandparents ever meet the researchers? Do you remember them visiting your home, taking photographs (what is now known as the John Collier Jr. Collection), conducting interviews, or simply being part of the community? Did your family ever talk about the study, either at the time or in later years?

Even small memories can help build a fuller picture of this remarkable chapter in our local history. If you have a story to share, or know someone who might, I would love to hear from you. You can reach me through the Passages Facebook page, by Messenger, or by email at passageseditor@gmail.com.

Photos by John Collier Jr., courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives (Alexander H. Leighton Fonds, Accession 1988-413).

Old Home Weekend 2026

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who donated to our Old Home Weekend, we are very grateful to each and everyone of you for your continued support. It is because of all of you that we are able to put on these events for our communities. Thank you!

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- Cheryl Boushey
- Rikki Clements
- Brier Island Foundation
- Joshua Slocum Society
- Patricia Outhouse

Thank You to all of our VOLUNTEERS who made Old Home Weekend Possible:

- Mike Thimot
- Trevor Moore
- Sean McDormand
- Clifton Titus
- Cody Titus
- Josie Manzer
- Lynn Welder – Lalonde
- Logan Lalonde
- Lillie Thimot
- Maddie Thimot
- Sophie Norwood
- Quinn Sollows
- Cohen Crocker
- Chevy Graham
- Ian Tudor
- Brier Tudor
- Rhynda Tudor
- Don Moore
- Darren Frost
- Wally deVries
- Frank Garron
- Steve Sherrer
- Karen Mahovlich
- Paula Outhouse
- Ron Marshall
- Sophia Titus
- Siena Titus
- Mary Graham
- Brittany Vantassel
- Silas
- Kaiden Swift
- Josh Inrig
- Jasmine Inrig
- Steven Moore
- Katy Lundrigan
- Chad Graham
- Bernie Moore
- Lisa Clark
- Lauren McCarron

SANDY COVE CONSERVANCY

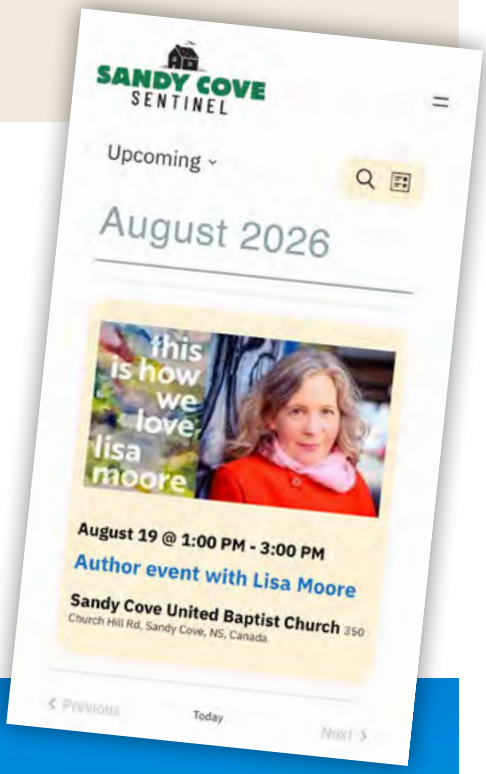
est. 2022

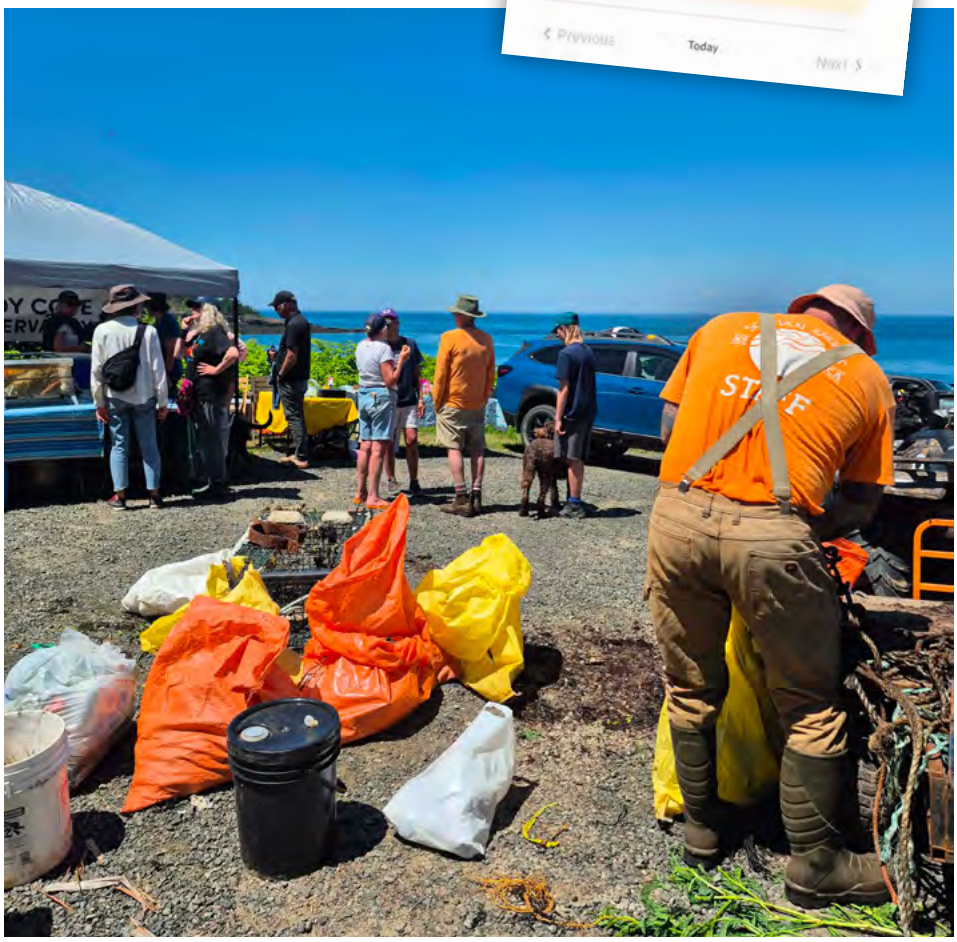
July has just blown by, a month filled with so many activities and such great community involvement. We had a very successful Beach Sweep on July 11th. Our ongoing efforts over the past six month to keep the beach clean of debris meant that it was largely free of large waste however we still did manage to collect over 250 pounds of garbage (52% diverted from landfill) and 4,800 lobster bands in a three hour period! We want to thank the Municipality of Digby for their ongoing support of our efforts and to Angela Riley and Scotian Shores for their continued partnership.

This past February a meeting was held of the many associations in and around Sandy Cove to discuss how best to organize our events. We were mindful of not competing with one another for peoples time. We determined that a very helpful tool would be a digital community calendar to keep things straight. Over the spring a group of IT savvy citizens came together to build this calendar and in early July we launched our website: The Sandy Cove Sentinel (https://sandycovesentinel.ca)

We encourage people to check it out to see what's going on in our area! The Conservancy will be hosting another Beach Clean Up with Scotian Shores on August 14th on the St. Mary's Beach starting at 11:00 am and once again hot dogs and ice cream sandwiches will be served to all participants! And on August 19th at 1:00 pm Newfoundland author Lisa Moore will be talking about her most recent novel, This Is How We Love at The United Baptist Church all are welcome and this is a free event. Lisa is a really delightful speaker.

And of course there are so many more activities happening in Sandy Cove, two upcoming concerts at Cove Music, another Community Market at the end of the month, Rug Hooking at the library and silent mediation at the Baptist Church three days a week. You'll find all this and more at The Sandy Cove Sentinel! (https://sandycovesentinel.ca)





Join our Facebook page!

How to Beat Back Japanese Knotweed

BY THE PLANT LADIES, CHRISTINA PRIME AND TERI CHACE

As I sit here on this mid-summer day, preparing to write my introduction to this month's article, on, surprise, surprise, Japanese knotweed, I could maybe delude myself into thinking this may be the last year we have to write an updated version of our first article from July 2018, in which we brought to attention this scourge on our land, as well as so many other places.

The sad thing is, the more Japanese knotweed Facebook pages I join and the larger the infiltration into backyards and roadsides, I can foresee us not being done writing these articles anytime soon. I am not a prognosticator or anything like that but just nodding sage-like and believing that if we can help at least one person who's fighting to eradicate this plant with our articles, we will continue to forge on. We have to believe we'll make a difference, one year at a time.

My memory of this plant is from a very few weeks ago. I just happened to be doing some gardener doom-scrolling on the Japanese knotweed pages on Facebook when I read a lament from a sad person. She'd bought a house this past winter and lo and behold the early good days of spring arrived, she was checking out her property and was so disappointed, if not angry, to see the seller hadn't noted in the real estate listing that she'd bought a well-established Japanese knotweed patch.

She came on the site to ask for help and insight. Most people gave her good advice and then I saw what made my stomach churn. A man denouncing [2%] glyphosate implicitly as not working and saying the only way to kill (yes, he literally said kill) this aggressive plant was to mow it. Oh my gosh!!! Teri and I have seen many people around here doing wrong things no matter what we say but when someone states such a blatant lie as fact, it just makes me want to pound my head into a wall. I am truly sad to know people are still saying downright lies as facts and, after almost 10 years, it hurts worse than ever.

Now please join my fellow plant lady as she reaches out to help sort out the real thing that works from the cover-ups. Hopefully this year she will lead at least one more person to not do the wrong thing and actually beat back knotweed for good.

Live and learn

The past few years of annual articles by us on this dastardly plant have not all been the same. Research has advanced. We've tried various things and learned a lot. The Facebook groups Chris mentions have started and grown to thousands of members (see list at the end of this article). News and information are spreading and the alarms are sounding!

Why fight this plant? Why try to kill it? Because it is greedy and rampant, and over time, takes over entire areas. Gardens and lawns. Habitats, ecosystems. Roadsides, fields. It does not share space or resources

like soil, nutrients, and water. It is a selfish, dominating thug, excluding all other plants...permanently, unless somebody does something... something effective.

And heaven help you if it is close to your house, garage, or other building or pad, or encroaching on your unpaved or paved driveway or your garden. It can and does breach those things, damage, and even ruin them. True fact: in England, good luck getting a mortgage or insurance if this plant is on a property. In this country, I see that "Japanese knotweed is a dealbreaker for many Canadian mortgage lenders. Because of its destructive root system, banks frequently reject mortgages or require a multi-year, professional plan backed by an insurance guarantee to mitigate the risk." We can only hope such a plan uses current and correct information.

So this year, we have some new thoughts and new information... please read to the end. But first, the main thing we want to say, to repeat, is that: Japanese knotweed is NOT LIKE OTHER PLANTS. Fighting this plant with logical, traditional, tried-and-true weed-eradication methods simply does not work.

Try and fail

On a walk around the cove in Freeport with my dog a few weeks ago, I met a guy toiling away, cutting down a patch of Japanese knotweed. Not with clippers or loppers (that would take hours and hours!). Not with a whippersnapper (some of the stout "bamboo" stems are too thick). With a scythe! It made me think of a Winslow Homer painting of a fellow systematically taking down wheat with even strokes of a scythe—hard work but marvelous to watch.

I watched him work for a spell, but didn't want to startle him or talk his ear off! We did say hello and share a few words. He told me it was the third or fourth time this season he's cut it back. And...it keeps growing back. This technique is perfectly logical and would work with a lot of other unwanted plants. Cut down repeatedly, a plant should falter, its root system should starve and die back.

Unless it's Japanese knotweed. Cutting it actually seems to provoke this plant, causing it to quickly and often thickly resprout. As the famous saying goes, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting a new/different result.

Mowing is madness?

I have seen plenty of people who deal with the Japanese knotweed on their property by mowing it. Little tiny reddish leaves reappear in their lawn within a few days or a week, and they mow again. And again. It's a lot of work and if you take a week or two off, they grow taller and the whole project can get away on you.

Of course, if you somehow like having a stand of Japanese knotweed—this is an option. The thick growth can play the role of a dense hedge or "living fence," blocking a view of a neighbor's property or enclosing your yard.

But, I repeat, you are never going to get rid of it this way.

Tarping woes

Tarping doesn't work either. I know. I tried it for several years with my patch. The stems just pushed up and through. Where I overlapped two tarps, they weaseled through and came up anyway—such ingenuity, such persistence. Annoying and, to be honest, a little scary.

I tried heavier tarps, weighted down with rocks. Where the sprouts and stems couldn't break through, guess what? The plant just went out beyond where I tarped. This is because an established stand of Japanese knotweed is sure to have a huge, spreading underground root system. Tarping is like playing "whack-a-mole"!

I've even seen these plants cross a driveway or street—the smart money's on the massive root system—likely it's actually all the same huge

plant, all the same root system. We are dealing with a beast here, folks.

Other things that don't work
Digging up the roots. The problem with this method is that Japanese knotweed roots can grow wide and deep, and it's very hard to get it all. And if you miss even tiny fragments, trust me, in time they will definitely regenerate. Established patches have been shown to extend 60 feet or. more AND go 10 to 20 feet down—are you prepared for backbreaking labor that might not, in the end, work?

Cutting off the flowers so the plants don't go to seed. Well, that's a management tactic for some other plants, but it won't work with Japanese knotweed—don't even bother. Here in this climate, viable seeds may not even have a chance to develop before winter comes. No, Japanese knotweed is not spreading by seeds around here. It's spreading via bits of roots.

Burning. Setting aside concerns about the dangers of burning brush (especially now that our summers are getting drier, it seems), this is a bad idea. Japanese knotweed is native to Japan, where it grows on the sides of volcanoes. It laughs at burning. Don't even bother.

Spraying heavily. You may feel so homicidal towards this plant that you attack it too vigorously. Various chemical sprays can scorch, damage or kill the leaves, bamboolike stems, branches, and flowers, yes. But the root system lives on, and it will resprout. More is not better, plus you can harm adjacent plants and your soil, or yourself, your family, animals. Do not go crazy blasting this plant with random garden chemicals or even "safe" formulations like vinegar. It won't work.

Spraying at the wrong time. You might think springtime, as growth begins, makes sense—get 'em while they're young. But all the plant's energy is surging upward then, and the toxin will not travel down into the root system, where it needs to go. Do not spray Japanese knotweed in spring or summer, tempting though it may be, as nice as it may be to see the dead, browned topgrowth...this condition is only temporary and the roots will live to create whole new stands.

One thing that has proven to work: spraying in late summer or early fall with weak glyphosate.
Let me just say that I only came around to this method after getting discouraged and failing at other methods. I'm an organic gardener and a nature-lover and it was hard to turn to a reviled weedkiller. Using glyphosate, I've come to believe, is like treating cancer with chemotherapy—a necessary poison for a greater good, saving a yard, habitat, or ecosystem.

Okay, here's what to do. Spray "in the window" of opportunity between flowering and the first frost. Flowering, as with many plants, sucks a lot of energy, so the plants are overall weaker or vulnerable then. Spraying after the flowers fade spares the lives of pollinators, including bees, who—not knowing any better—seek sustenance/nectar from Japanese knotweed flowers. Also late-season Japanese knotweed plants (as with many other plants) are directing their energy downward now. (Spraying in spring always fails because the plant's energy is surging UPWARD.)

Spraying at least two weeks before the first frost hits gives the spray enough time to work. Here on the Neck and Islands, I'd recommend taking action in late August through early September.

Mist the leaves (top and bottom of the leaves, if you can safely reach both sides); don't let the spray drip, don't drench, no need. Within the first hour or two of spraying, the leaves drink in that poison and convey it down into the roots below... where the chemical gets busy killing the roots. Even deep and extensive ones that you will never see and no shovel will ever reach.

This works. Typically a good August or September spraying session kills 90% or more of a patch of Japanese knotweed—it's simply amazing. Give it about two weeks to show results (and enjoy viewing the extensive dead patch the following spring). Quick results mean you only killed the parts you can see aboveground; your real target is the root system.

You'll have to follow up in the next year and beyond to kill stragglers

and weird chemically distorted growth, again, in that window. Let the few survivors grow all spring and summer so there's maximum foliage for the spray to land upon.

Some tips for success and safety:

- Buy a product that lists ONLY "glyphosate isopropylamine salt" as its active ingredient. RoundUp has other products and formulations, so you need to check the label. If you buy concentrate, dilute it with water to between 1.4 to 4%, that's it, no more; for me, the sweet spot is about 2%. (After, store the sealed container up high in a dark, cool place where nobody can mess with it, including kids.)

- The generic recommendation is 2-4%. But most of us have been using the yellow jug of RoundUp that only has 1.4% —it's pre-mixed—and have been successful. Look for "Poison Ivy Strength," available at Canadian Tire and Home Hardware.

- Spray in batches so you don't have leftover. Glyphosate binds to impurities in water and becomes inert, so leftover will neither be toxic nor useful.

- Spray on a windless day to avoid drift. If you have nice garden plants, bushes, or trees close by, drape them with old towels or blankets or cover with cardboard boxes so no spray can get on them. You only want to kill the knotweed.

- Suit up in old clothes, closed shoes, gloves, even a Covid-era mask, and then launder the clothing and take a hot, soapy shower after. This is just being prudent. If you work carefully, you should not get any on you.

- Never spray over your head. Some people cut their tall patch down in June, and spray the shorter regrowth "in the window." I'm against cutting for any reason, honestly. Just spray what you can reach. It'll work.

- The following spring, if you want to clean up all the dead stuff, cut it and bag it and send it away in the trash. Never the green bin—heaven forbid you do anything to spread this problem plant! (And do not yank or tug at dead stalks; if there's any life left in the roots, a possibility, you may provoke it into resprouting.)

Parting words:
Do nothing? Attacking Japanese knotweed incorrectly seems to provoke it. It will resprout or spread out with vigor. I have noticed some people who have it on their land and don't do anything have somewhat less of a problem. Often a patch will only expand slowly if you leave it alone. Of course, I don't really recommend this.....in the end, you'll be sorry because, over time, Japanese knotweed will spread out.

But what I'm saying is, if you're not up for attacking it correctly at this time, don't poke the hornet's nest. Leave it be and take proper action when you're ready.

I would also add that it's especially distressing to see Japanese knotweed on an island...a contained ecosystem. Surely we can fight back and reclaim our natural habitats.

More information and moral support:
Look over or join these Facebook groups. You will learn a lot.
Japanese knotweed—Canadian support group
Worldwide Japanese Knotweed Support group

The one Chris mentioned that often has incorrect information and comments, but may still offer useful or interesting conversations, is: Nontoxic Japanese Knotweed Solutions.

Upcoming Village Meetings

VILLAGE OF FREEPORT COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 15, at 6 p.m.,
Freeport Community Hall,
53 Overcove Road
info@freeportnovascotia.ca

VILLAGE OF TIVERTON COMMISSION
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, August 13, at 7 p.m.,
Tiverton Community Hall
financevillageoftiverton
@gmail.com

VILLAGE OF WESTPORT COMMISSION
There will be no Village General Meeting in August. The next General Monthly Meetings will be on Tuesday, 1 September at the Westport Community Hall. Requests for Agenda items should be forwarded to the Village Clerk villageofwestport.clerk@gmail.com before 28 August for inclusion on the 1 September meeting Agenda. The Community Hall is an accessible building.
www.westportnovascotia.com

Before the Sea!

On stage Aug 8 & 9 on Brier Island

BY KRISTINA INRIG

Brier Island is gearing up for an exciting theatre production August 8th & 9th at the Westport Community Hall (7 Second St). A cast of 15 people have been hard at work since June. Countless volunteers have also contributed to set design, props, costumes and so much more.

The play is Before the Sea: the Joshua Slocum story on Brier Island. It tells the tale of a young Slocum arriving to the island at eight years old and working in his father's cobbler shop. Joshua did not love the life of a cobbler. He ran away once at age 14, but came home again until his mother died when he was 16. He then left for good and only returned aboard his sailboat, The Spray, when he was starting is solo circumnavigation of the world.

This important story for our community is being told on stage this summer. The play will have two showings only which are Saturday, August 8th at 6:30pm and then Sunday, August 9th at 2:00pm. Seating is limited! Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.JoshuaSlocum.com under Events. They can also be purchased on Brier Island at the Slocum Boot Shop, Mariners Cruises, and the Brier Island Lodge.

Come out and enjoy community theatre and support the new Westport Theatre Troupe in its first ever production.

Joshua Slocum Society

Westport Theatre Troupe

AUG 8-9, 2026
★ WESTPORT, NS ★

presents

BEFORE THE SEA

The Joshua Slocum Story on Brier Island

an original play

TICKETS $10

TO PURCHASE ON BRIER ISLAND

at these 3 locations:

SLOCUM BOOT SHOP
118 Water St

MARINER CRUISES
325 Water St

BRIER ISLAND LODGE
557 Water St

SHOW TIMES

Sat. AUG 8 — 6:30 PM

Sun. AUG 9 — 2:00 PM

TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT
www.JoshuaSlocum.com

See you at the

Tiverton Volunteer Fire Department

BREAKFAST

Aug 2, 8 to 10, Tiverton Community Hall

15.00 Adults, 10.00 kids

Slocum Boot Shop opens in Westport

Step into the workshop where a legendary sailor's journey began.

BY JOSHUA SLOCUM SOCIETY

This summer, Brier Island has an exciting new addition to the island! The Slocum Boot Shop historic site at 118 Water Street has opened its doors to the community. The display is located in a historic fish shop that was once the cobbler shop where Joshua Slocum worked for his father.

Joshua Slocum did not enjoy the life of a cobbler. This is referenced in many biographies and source material. As Joshua Slocum Society board member, Kristina Inrig points out: "If it wasn't for this cobbler shop, Slocum may not have left life on land to become the incredible sailor who went on to sail single-handedly around the world. His love for the sea was nurtured on Brier Island and he hated the confines of the cobbler life. That is why he left to explore the oceans and became the great sailor that he was."

The Slocum Boot Shop property received heritage designation in the 1990s, but this is the first time that it has been set up as a museum-style exhibit. One section is a replica of the cobbler shop with the tools and equipment from the 1850s when Slocum would have worked there. There is also a display about his sailboat, the Spray, with some marine instruments and 19th century books that Slocum was known to have read. Copies of his famous work, Sailing Alone Around the World, can be viewed alongside a huge collection of books about Slocum. There are biographies, kids books, and stories of other sailors following in his footsteps. There is even a Spanish comic book about Slocum!

Finally, there is a display about Fish Shops more generally and a celebration of the fishing industry on the island. You can learn about the different fish shops on the island and see old photographs of them. There is also a special thank you to Captain William Denton who made it possible for the Society to transition the property to a community asset.

The Slocum Boot Shop held its Grand Opening on June 24th which marked the same day that Slocum completed his famous voyage around the world. Over 60 visitors came out for this special event. This was followed by a Slocum Walk around the island on July 2nd. Stops were made at key Slocum points

of interest, including the former Baptist Church, the cemetery, Pew #13 at the Vestry, Peters Island lookout, the Slocum monument, and the Boot Shop. Festivities during Old Home Weekend also featured the Boot Shop including the Canada Day parade and the sand sculpture contest.

Since the exciting launch events, the Slocum Boot Shop has continued to open its doors throughout the week with volunteers taking shifts to help with the display. By mid-July, over 250 visitors had stopped in for a tour. The group participated in Historic Places Days with the National Trust for Canada from July 11-25. They also held a Slocum Talk on July 30th to share the story of setting up the historic display on the island.

If you haven't stopped in at the Slocum Boot Shop this summer, please come by for a visit. There is also a need for more volunteers to help cover boot shop hours for the last two weeks of August. You don't have to have any previous volunteer experience as training and a sample script will be provided.

For more information, drop by 118 Water Street to take a tour of the boot shop. You can find our weekly hours posted on the Facebook page "Slocum Boot Shop" and learn additional information about Slocum on the Facebook Page "Joshua Slocum Society." The website is www.JoshuaSlocum.com and the email is joshuaslocumsociety@gmail.com. Get in touch!

PREVIOUS PAGE: Over 60 visitors swung by the Grand Opening of Slocum's Boot Shop. **TOP:** Displays of historical books and objects relevant to Slocum at the Boot Shop. **BOTTOM:** All set for the Slocum Walk, held during Old Home Weekend on July 2.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SLOCUM BOOT SHOP
BRIER ISLAND, NOVA SCOTIA

HELP KEEP HISTORY ALIVE

this summer on Brier Island!

The Slocum Boot Shop is a recreated 19th-century cobbler's workshop that celebrates Joshua Slocum's early life and his remarkable voyages.

We need friendly volunteers to help welcome visitors, share the story, and keep our shop running!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

WELCOME VISITORS
Greet guests and share the story of Joshua Slocum and the Boot Shop.

SHARE HISTORY
Guide visitors through our exhibits and keep the history of Brier Island alive.

KEEP IT SHIPSHAPE
Help with light cleaning, upkeep, organization, and small projects.

SUPPORT SPECIAL EVENTS
Assist with open houses, talks, walks, and other exciting community events.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

Many hands keep tradition strong.

joshuaslocumsociety@gmail.com | 118 WATER STREET, WESTPORT, NS

Drop in anytime — everyone welcome!

THE JOSHUA SLOCUM SOCIETY

For sale: Computer desks

All four computer desks are in excellent condition.
The price is $50.00 or best offer for each.

Contact: villageofwestport.clerk@gmail.com or 902-247-3227

Royal Canadian Legion

Br. #92, Freeport

Weekly Schedule

WEDNESDAY

All Ages Bingo 7:00-8:45

THURSDAY

Happy Hour 5:00-6:00
Pool 7:00

FRIDAY

Happy Hour 5:00-6:00
Cribbage 7:00

SATURDAY

Happy Hour 5:00-6:00

SUNDAY

Happy Hours 5:00-7:00
Fun Darts 6:00
75/25 Draw 7:00

Join our facebook page for updates and more!

Thank you

We want to thank our friends from the Islands for being there for us. Terry's Celebration of Life was a testament of the love and caring from the place I call home and the place all three of us have loved over the years.

Thanks to Heather, Melisa and Richie for organizing everything, the use of the Hall and to all the women who made sandwiches. Everything was perfect and so appreciated.

Many of our friends from other Provinces mentioned how welcoming everyone was and the warmth they felt. It made me very proud of my "hometown".

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." John Wooden

Pat and Tiffany

ISLANDS HEALTH CENTRE AUGUST UPDATE

Islands Health Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm (closed from 12 to 1 for lunch). Our phones are answered from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

We are currently booking 2 to 3 weeks in advance but keep "same day" appointments available each day and some "same week" appointments when possible. **902-839-2398**.

If you have an appointment with IHC & no longer need it, or cannot make it, please call to cancel as someone else could use this spot! If you have a telephone appointment booked with Courtney, please be available to answer your phone at that time, as these times are allotted in the schedule the same as an in-person appointment would be.

Blood Collection

Blood Collection at IHC will be on August 17th from 8am to 12pm by appointment only. Please call **1-833-998-2722**, book online at booking.nshealth.ca. or if you need help to book an appointment, call IHC at 902-839-2398.

Mental Health

Mental Health Services are available each Monday with Jannine Walser-Koert, Child Therapist and each Thursday with Vanessa Nickerson, Adult Therapist. Please call **1-855-922-1122** for an appointment with the mental health team. These Therapists travel to our clinic to see clients and we appreciate having this service available in Freeport. If you have a previously booked appointment, and are unavailable for your appointment, please be respectful of their time and call **902-245-4709** to cancel or reschedule.

Diabetic Education Centre

The Diabetic Education Centre (DEC) will be at Islands Health Centre for appointments one day every second month. Next island day

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 **Natal Day**	4 Clerical support only	5 Clerical support only	6 Clerical support only	7 **Closed**	8
9	10 Courtney Highleyman, NP Jannine Walser-Koert, Mental Health	11 Courtney Highleyman, NP Nursing Support	12 Courtney Highleyman, NP	13 Courtney Highleyman, NP Vanessa Nickerson, Mental Health	14 Courtney Highleyman, NP	15
16	17 Courtney Highleyman, NP Jannine Walser-Koert, Mental Health **Blood Collection**	18 Courtney Highleyman, NP Nursing Support	19 Courtney Highleyman, NP	20 Courtney Highleyman, NP Vanessa Nickerson, Mental Health	21 Courtney Highleyman, NP	22
23	24 Courtney Highleyman, NP Jannine Walser-Koert, Mental Health	25 Courtney Highleyman, NP Nursing Support	26 Courtney Highleyman, NP	27 Courtney Highleyman, NP Vanessa Nickerson, Mental Health	28 Courtney Highleyman, NP	29
30	31 Courtney Highleyman, NP Jannine Walser-Koert, Mental Health					

ISLANDS HEALTH CENTRE: 902-839-2398
DIGBY HEALTH SERVICES CENTRE: 902-245-1307

is Wednesday, October 28th, 2026 with Marsha Arnburg LeBlanc.

PLEASE NOTE PRESCRIPTION REFILLS:

Due to the high demand of prescription refill requests **RENEWALS WILL BE SENT TO THE PHARMACY WITHIN ONE WEEK** of the date they were requested. Please don't wait until the last minute to request refills, as urgent requests may not be able to be addressed. The best time to request your prescription renewal is when you pick up your last available refill! Phone or in-person appointments can be booked with our pharmacist on staff or NP to have medications renewed by calling IHC.

The following are some resources available for health care in the event Courtney Highleyman is off-duty or unable to see you:

- If you have an emergency, please call **911** or go to the nearest Emergency Department!
- Call **811** if you have any questions or concerns you are not sure about and want to discuss with an experienced nurse for advice/guidance.
- Call your Pharmacist if you have questions regarding your medication, or to be seen for minor ailments.
- Call the Digby and Area Health Centre at **902-245-1307** to see if they have any available same-day appointments.
- Call the Annapolis Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) at **902-532-4011**. Patients can usually be seen at the UTC same-day or next day but need an appointment.
- VirtualCareNS is available at: VirtualCareNS | Nova Scotia Health
- Virtual Care is also available at DGH Emergency Department including times when there is no Doctor or NP on site.
- For any urgent issues requiring stitches, x-rays, significant bite injuries, high fevers, severe pain/concerning symptoms, etc., please don't hesitate to go to the closest ER.

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See page 2 for more details.

Islands Baptist Church Services
Freeport 10:45 am
Westport 11:00 am
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