



Loyalist hero Thomas Dixon is buried near what is now the Fort Beauséjour Museum. *POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE*

FROM REBELLION ON A2

Goreham’s soldiers, along with some 30 Loyalist farmers and their families, were locked in the star-shaped earthen fort that they’d managed to surround with a wooden palisade.

Outside, Eddy’s men controlled the countryside, burning the farms.

The future of a country no one yet imagined hung by a thread.

THOMAS DIXSON

Get your hands on a map of Nova Scotia and look for Chignecto Bay.

Now imagine getting in a small, open wooden boat in November and alternately sailing and rowing it out that bay against the world’s most powerful tides, then around the high cliffs of Cape Chignecto and through the many perils of the Minas Passage up to Windsor.

It’s worth asking ourselves if we’d make that uncertain journey for Canada.

Or if we think our local federal or provincial representative would?

A veteran of the continent’s many wars, Thomas Dixon had settled to farm at Point de Bute, near Fort Cumberland.

In August 1776, Dixon won the byelection for the seat in the legislature that had been vacated by John Allan after his treason charge.

With the few Loyalist families held up with Goreham’s diminished forces inside a fort that didn’t have food for the winter, Dixon and three volunteers whose names are lost to time put their necks on the line in a desperate gamble. They snuck out of the fort and began the perilous journey by sea and land to get word to the British commander in Halifax.

THE SIEGE

Having been asked to surrender by a rebel envoy, Goreham responded with an offer to accept Eddy’s sword.

On Nov. 12, Eddy launched his attack.

A Wolastoqey warrior snuck over the fort’s walls and nearly succeeded in opening a door before being cut down.

Eddy attempted a feint to draw the Loyalist forces away from a weak point in the fort’s defences.

But the old warrior Goreham saw through the strategy, rallied his Fencibles and drove off the rebels.

On Nov. 22 they were back.

They lit barns on fire outside the fort’s walls. High winds carried smoke and embers into the fort. With pails of water, Goreham’s soldiers put out fires that began on wooden-shingled structures within.

The Loyalists held on with their dwindling supplies, unaware of

whether their message of distress had reached Halifax.

THE VULTURE

On Nov. 27, sails were spotted on the horizon. Dixon had made it.

HMS Vulture sailed up the bay with Royal Marines and volunteer Nova Scotia Fencibles.

Two days later, Maj. Thomas Batt led a combined force of 150 Royal Nova Scotia Fencibles and Marines in a counterattack.

Eddy and his forces were scattered. Those who escaped would spend months making their way back to New England over land.

Batt’s forces burned over a dozen farms, including Mary Allan’s, believed to belong to rebel sympathizers.

She and her children, along with other families would arrive at Fort Cumberland seeking food and shelter from Goreham, who had precious little of either to spare.

The women and children were sent to Halifax, where they were questioned about the scheming of their husbands. While Batt wanted to prosecute the captured rebels and sympathizers, Goreham refused.

Instead, he issued pardons for all those who would give up their arms, an offer taken by some 100 local rebels.

Batt would seek to have Goreham prosecuted for neglect of duty. That would fail and Goreham was exonerated.

One of those pardoned was Richard John Uniacke, who would later be Nova Scotia’s attorney general.

Mary Allan would ultimately be reunited with John, and together they would have four more children. What thoughts she may have shared with him about being left alone with their first five amid a civil war have been lost to history.

In the years that followed, Loyalists escaping the rebellious states would come north to settle in Nova Scotia, entrenching British support here.

Raids by American privateers on coastal settlements further diminished sympathies to their cause.

Hung on a wall in a gazebo at the Fort Beauséjour National Historic Site on the weekend were banners with the names of those who fought on either side. Surnames like Allan, Doiron, Boudreau, Smith, Sutherland, Lawrence, Crow, Newell, West and Mills are familiar in the area.

“It was a time of upheaval between nations,” said Scott Hoyt, whose great-great-great-great-grandfather, Robert Wilson, joined the rebels.

“But it wasn’t that long afterward that they were able to go back to being friends and neighbours. We could learn from them.”

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Social worker suspended for inappropriate conduct

IAN FAIRCLOUGH

A Nova Scotia social worker has been suspended under a settlement agreement reached with the province’s governing body.

The Nova Scotia College of Social Workers received letters of complaint in June 2022 regarding the conduct of social worker Philip Patey of Halifax. After a long investigation process, a settlement agreement was reached that sees Patey’s registration suspended.

Patey was under interim restrictions imposed by the college pending the completion of its investigation. After that ended, the college held a discipline hearing in February. It released the results Friday evening.

A decision summary has been published on the college’s website.

Patey, who had no prior complaints or discipline history with the college, was sanctioned for actions involving a former client four years ago.

At that time he hadn’t worked with the woman since 2016, when she was 16. In April 2022, the decision says, Patey drove to meet the woman to take her to lunch. After he picked her up, she asked about seeing his dogs and he agreed to take her to his house for that purpose.

They were the only ones at the home when they arrived and the woman had not been inside before, the decision said. She played with the dogs and then asked to use the washroom as Patey prepared a meal at her request.

He gave her a tour of his home and offered a bag of clothing that he had been intending to donate to charity. He also told her he had once considered the possibility of adopting her.

The woman asked Patey if he thought she could ever come live with him at his house, to which he responded that he didn’t think so but, if it was something she was serious about, he would have to discuss it with his wife.

He told her it could be a short-term living arrangement to get her back on her feet.

The topic didn’t come up again, but Patey said in the investigation that if it had, he would have been firmer in saying it was not something he could entertain.

When driving the woman back to where he had picked her up, Patey stopped at a pharmacy at her request and bought shampoo and conditioner for her.

He suggested they could meet again for lunch but that didn’t happen, and their communication with each other ended in late May of that year.

Patey denied having any inappropriate feelings toward the woman.

He admitted to the facts, which supported findings of professional misconduct, conduct unbecoming and a breach of the standards of practice or code of ethics.

Also, the decision said that by failing to refer the woman to another social worker or other professional after the professional boundaries were initially crossed, Patey was in violation of the college’s standards of practice.

He received a reprimand and his registration with the college was suspended for two months.

He is also required to successfully complete a program in ethical boundaries and write a 1,000-word reflective essay that includes what he has learned from the incident and the followup training, how he will use that training in his practice and specific actions he will take to prevent future boundary violations.

Patey is also restricted from practising as a self-employed social worker for one year, and for one year after his return to practice he must immediately advise the college in writing when he accepts any offers of employment as a social worker. The college will then give a summary of the settlement agreement to his manager and provide indirect supervision by a college-appointed supervisor for six months.



A vulnerability in a third-party platform allowed unauthorized access to some Halifax Water customer information. FILE

HALIFAX WATER FIXES CYBERSECURITY LEAK

Privacy breach affects 16 customers

WILLY PALOV

Halifax Water is working to fix vulnerabilities in its cybersecurity protection after a privacy breach affected 16 customers.

The utility issued a news release detailing how some information from its Customer Connect portal was compromised because of a deficiency in the service provided by contracted vendor Avertra.

The exposed information was limited to names, addresses, account ID information, email addresses and security questions and answers.

“Our review found that a vulnerability in a third-party platform allowed unauthorized access to certain customer information,” Kenda MacKenzie, CEO of Halifax Water, said in the release Thursday.

“We are taking the time needed to understand the circumstances fully, protect customers’ interests, and address the related contractual and insurance matters appropriately.

“We are sorry for the concern this has caused. We have notified the 16 affected customers directly, expanded our cybersecurity testing, strengthened escalation processes for security-related incident reports, and will keep the portal offline until it can be restored securely.”

No banking or financial details were accessed in the breach. It was not described as a cyberattack.

“Halifax Water’s payment systems and operational systems were not involved in this incident,” the release said.

“The affected portal database did not include credit card or banking information, and the systems that control water and wastewater services were not affected.”

Roughly 55,000 customers hold portal accounts, so Halifax Water will return to sending bills and notices by mail until the glitches are fully corrected. A precise timeline for the repair isn’t available.

“The fix for the original vulnerability has been independently tested and confirmed effective, but further security testing has identified additional vulnerabilities,” said the release.

“That work is ongoing, and the portal will remain offline until Halifax Water is satisfied that service can be restored securely. No restoration date has been set.”

As part of a chronology released by Halifax Water, the first red flag went up in November, and a six-month investigation and corrective process followed. Third-party forensic experts finalized their findings in June but Halifax Water continued its security upgrades and testing.

The review also identified internal failures from the early stages of the process that delayed the initial response.

“Halifax Water also wants to be transparent about a shortfall in an internal process,” the release said.

“In February 2026, an unknown third party emailed Halifax Water’s customer service team about the vulnerability, and the initial email was dismissed as spam. In March 2026, the same party followed up with customer

care, and the followup email was reported to the help desk.

“The ticket was escalated to the cybersecurity team and triggered the full response described above. Cybersecurity awareness training has increased across the organization, and internal ticket routing and escalation processes have been updated to immediately flag and escalate these types of security-related reports from outside the organization.”

Halifax Water circulated the following list of precautions for customers:

- Use a unique password for every service and change any password you have reused;
- Turn on multi-factor authentication wherever available;
- Change your security questions and answers on other services if you use the same ones on the Halifax Water portal;
- Be alert to phishing. Halifax Water will not call, email or text you to ask

We are taking the time needed to understand the circumstances fully, protect customers’ interests, and address the related contractual and insurance matters appropriately.

KENDA MACKENZIE,
CEO of Halifax Water

for personal information about this incident;

- Watch accounts for unusual activity and report anything suspicious to financial institutions.

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Voyeurism sentence terminated early

Intimate videos of common-law wife secretly recorded

STEVE BRUCE

A former Halifax firefighter who secretly recorded intimate videos of his common-law wife has had his probation order terminated 10 months early.

Justin Andrew Gaul, 43, of Dartmouth pleaded guilty in Halifax provincial court in December 2023 to a charge of voyeurism.

At sentencing in May 2024, Gaul was handed a conditional discharge with three years of probation.

Gaul’s application to end his probation well ahead of schedule was granted recently by Judge Paul Scovil — against the wishes of the Crown and the victim.

“Sentencing is not guided totally by the wishes of a victim,” Scovil said in his July 15 ruling. “There has to be an overall view.

“I can see no practical purpose in continuing the probation order. I think it’s in the best interests of society to terminate the probation order early. That’s what I’m doing.”

Now that Gaul has completed the probation order, the conviction will be discharged and he will not have a criminal record.

The complainant, Melanie Lindsay-Graham, got the court to remove a publication ban on her identity in April 2024.

Lindsay-Graham and Gaul were in a romantic relationship for about 12 years and lived together as common-law partners at a home in Prospect from 2014 until July 2022, when they separated. They have one child together, and she has five children from an earlier relationship.

In September 2022, Lindsay-Graham contacted RCMP to report that Gaul had recorded videos of the couple engaged in sexual activity in their bedroom between October 2021 and May 2022 without her knowledge or consent.

She told police she was using the couple’s shared laptop when she discovered the videos. She provided the computer to police, along with a USB charging block that contained a hidden video camera.

According to an agreed statement of facts, Gaul purchased the device in October 2021 and attached it to the side of his dresser in the bedroom. The camera was pointed at the centre of the bed, which was less than two metres away, and the extension cord powering the device had been glued to the dresser.

Lindsay-Graham gave police an SD card containing 15 videos of the couple engaged in sexual activity, plus additional videos from the bedroom that did not involve sexual activity.

The camera was not connected to the internet, the court was told. To view the videos, Gaul transferred



Justin Andrew Gaul

them to a computer.

In his sentencing decision, Scovil said the aggravating features of the offence were “the nature of the videos themselves, the planning in secreting the video equipment, and that it occurred in a domestic relationship.

“Clearly, the conduct of Mr. Gaul (was) egregious and a betrayal of the domestic relationship,” the judge said. “The impact on the complainant is profound and long-lasting.”

Scovil said the mitigating factors included Gaul’s lack of a previous criminal record, the guilty plea, his sincere remorse, his prosocial background, a positive presentence report and a psychologist’s finding that he poses a low risk to reoffend sexually.

The judge said he was satisfied that general deterrence and other sentencing principles could be achieved through a three-year period of probation, and that a conditional discharge would not be contrary to the public interest.

Defence lawyer Matt Kennedy argued in court last month that the punitive and rehabilitative aspects of the probation order had been satisfied and there was no need for Gaul to remain under court supervision.

Kennedy said his client had complied with all conditions of the order, including a curfew for the first 90 days, no contact with his ex, counselling, and completion of 150 hours of community service.

“A three-year order of probation is a long sentence,” Kennedy said. “It’s entirely within your discretion to end the order early.

“The question is not whether Ms. Lindsay-Graham supports the application. The question is whether having him continue on this order serves any of the purposes or principles of sentencing.”

Crown attorney Lauren Lindsay said the order should not be disturbed.

“This was an offence of surreptitiously recording somebody in their own home, performing sexual acts they believed were private,” Lindsay said.

She said terminating the order early would be contrary to the wishes of the victim and “not in keeping with the purposes and principles of sentencing that the initial sentencing order tried to balance.

“Ultimately, that’s the thing that the court needs to consider when determining what to do with a probation order. Because it’s not just about the offender; it’s about the offence and the other people involved in the situation.

“(Gaul) will eventually have no record because he was given a discharge, but this kick-starts that process early, and I think it undercuts the deterrent impact of the sentence that was put in place by Your Honour back in 2024.”

Gaul lost his job with Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency prior to his sentencing.

Contacted by The Chronicle Herald, Lindsay-Graham said she was disappointed with the judge’s decision. She said she remains fearful of Gaul and is considering applying for a peace bond.

Sunshine List sheds light on salaries

Who makes most at Halifax City Hall?

JEN TAPLIN

There’s more sunshine this year than ever.

Halifax released its Sunshine List, or, more officially, the compensation disclosure of all employees who earn over \$100,000, on Wednesday.

It’s a practice that started a decade ago, and Halifax Regional Municipality releases the list every summer. This spreadsheet of names and numbers from the past fiscal year prompts a lot of questions: Who made the most, and are more people cracking into this list than last year?

The very top paid position on the list — earning far above the others — is unexpected.

Halifax Regional Police Const. Kevin Johnson received \$692,387. Since his wages are listed as \$0 and his earnings are in the benefits column, it appears that Johnson was injured. He did not appear on the 2025 Sunshine List.

When asked for confirmation, an HRM spokesperson said Thursday: “This is a confidential personnel matter and therefore I’m not able to offer comment.”

Auditor general Andrew Atherton pulled in over \$212,000, and chief financial officer Jerry Blackwood received \$244,206 (both include benefits).

Mayor Andy Fillmore earned \$212,337 with benefits, and Halifax

Regional Police Chief Don MacLean brought home \$244,380.

Former fire chief Dave Meldrum earned over \$205,000. His replacement, Deryn Rizzi, started this week.

Before she left her job as chief administrative officer, the top staffer role, in October 2025, Cathy O’Toole earned \$306,687.

Her replacement, Marnie Cluckie, comes on board Sept. 23.

General Manager of Halifax Water Kenda MacKenzie earned over \$275,000 with benefits.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says the number of people earning over \$100,000 has more than doubled over the last decade. There were over 1,300 names on that list in 2025. In 2026, 1,665 people are making over \$100,000.

“At a time when families are already stretched thin, city hall should be looking for savings, not bigger tax bills,” said Devin Drover, the group’s Atlantic director and general counsel, in a statement during municipal budget season in April.

“Council needs to get spending under control and start with the top.”

The budget passed this spring with an increase of 9.5 per cent to the municipal portion of the average tax bill. Fillmore’s request to cut municipal wages by up to seven per cent over three years was rejected by the budget committee in February.

Councillors earn \$104, 408.

Department directors and lawyers are obviously among the top earners, but so are police captains and sergeants.

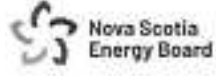
More than 15 police sergeants and captains and over a dozen fire district chiefs and captains earn over \$200,000. There were also a handful of police constables who earned over that mark.

The most recent compensation list includes all overtime, retirement or severance payments and covers the fiscal year ending March 31.



Halifax Regional Municipality’s most recent compensation disclosure list of all employees who earn more than \$100,000 has been released.

POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE



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720 AUCTION

In accordance with the Warehouseman’s Lien Act, there will be a sold by online public auction on the abandoned properties stored at Metro Self-Storage: 42 Glendale Ave, Lower Sackville; 25 Walker Avenue, Lower Sackville; 10 Lovett Lake Court, Halifax; 138 Chain Lake Drive, Halifax; 160 Thornhill Dr, Dartmouth; 201 Joseph Zatzman Dr, Dartmouth; 2618 Clifton Street, Halifax; 401 Willow Street, Truro; and 50 Upham Drive, Truro. The auction will take place on Tuesday, the 1st of September 2026.

The Auction will take place online by following the links <https://auctions.metroselfstorage.co/> Final bids must be placed by 12:00pm (noontime) on September 1st, 2026. For a full list of units, please refer to our web site, www.metroselfstorage.acl.ca

The personal effects and belongings of the following tenants will be sold:

Torinesha Dixon
Sherry Covin
Patrick Hyde
Diane Lavers
Asher Ekpo

Items to be auctioned include miscellaneous household goods, furniture, toys, etc.

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AUCTION