

# REES' Pieces

## Treading Carefully

Writing this month's version of Rees' Pieces is like treading water. When treading, you don't go forward, neither do I wish to put my foot in my mouth, change feet, or do something which will offend people. As long as I can be fair and meaningful, I'll be happy.

The fact that we have a provincial election on June 9th, makes this one of the harder opinion pieces, I have written for the Shoreline Journal and as equally as hard as many of similar columns, I have written over the years.

In the over 40 years, I have been involved with publications, throughout the Maritimes, I have always strived to ensure several topics were handled carefully. The diligence to ensure care was taken is not just from the editorial side, but also from the slant or perception of a particular slant taken in the stories from a variety of writers.

I started to cut my teeth in journalism and publishing, in the early 60's, in my hometown of Woodstock, New Brunswick. It was a newer weekly, going up against a much older established paper, which was very political, and also very strong affiliations with the Baptist community.

Management decided if they were going to gain market share, they would have to stay politically neutral and not show religious favourites. How successful that worked impressed me right from the start. From a business perspective, it gave us a good warm feeling to not show favourites, and to be accepted by everyone.

Then as society moved along, around the world, especially in the United States, more attention was being paid to the colour of a person's skin. A similar level of independence evolved, and in some cases, news was reported as news. Sure we did take some heat for bringing racial issues out into the public, but being fair to all, seemed to be the right thing to do.

Within the past 15-20 years the subject of sexual orientation rose to the surface and started to receive more balanced coverage, and a topic which was discussed at the coffee houses. Sexual orientation, in some ways was the most contentious, but I had matured enough to recognize fairness to all was the best policy.

As a result, when I launched my first publication in 1986, I vowed that these four topics would always be handled with the greatest of cautions. With small communities and a rural lifestyle which exist along the Cobequid Shore, there is nothing which would rile up the readers more than a paper taking a firm stand on any of these subjects.

In last fall's federal and municipal election, I wrote each candidate and assured them everyone would be treated equally and fairly. I have done the same in this election and it makes me feel good to carry that message to the candidates, political parties, and readers alike.

As a result you will not find me or the Shoreline Journal favouring one party, or candidate over the other. Nor, would I use the privileges, I enjoy as publisher, to cast my personal opinions upon readers.

This issue is the largest issue of the Shoreline Journal in recent history, if not since its beginnings in 1994. While working on the tourism section, which has grown beyond expectations, I have spent a lot of time on the internet trying to find a comprehensive list of festivals and events along the shore for this summer.

I'll admit I was very disappointed that a lot of church suppers, and events like the renowned Blueberry Festival activities along the shore could not be found. We've printed the listings we could find.

So I guess my message to community event organizers is to be sure to plan early and get the message out. If it is our intention to grow tourism along the shore and attract new visitors, we have to give them more reasons to come visit us than good roads, beautiful scenery, or friendly people. They want to attend local events, have us feed them, and to buy our crafts.

Central Nova Tourism has been encouraging people to send in list of events early, so they can be printed in tourism publications, listed on the website, and used to market our areas to a global community, who would like to come visit us.

So next year, let's make sure we all plan events early. If you don't know where to send them, send to me, and I will take it upon myself to make the contacts to have events listed free of charge.

After all, it's only fair to the large number of volunteers to see many new faces at the events.

Maurice

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*

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Dear Maurice

In the April edition of The Shoreline I read articles by Dale Ells (p.9) and Troy Spencer, Great Village (p.4). I would greatly appreciate it if you or one of your staff could send me the address or, better, e-mail for these two persons.

I do not know Troy but I would like to congratulate him for his excellent article.

As for Dale Ells, I worked

on staff with Dale at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. I taught in the Biology Dept. from 1970 to 1980, when I left for Theological studies toward ordination in the Anglican Church. I have lost touch with Dale over the years, but noticed his article in the Shoreline. At the moment I am Rector of the Parishes of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene, Georgian

Bay, Ontario. One of my parishioners, Joan Akerman, wife of Howard Akerman, a subscriber to the Shoreline, has been passing on to me monthly copies of the Shoreline, which I have been enjoying immensely. I lived for 7 years in Truro and 3 years in Masstown in the old Colbourne farm property next to Eric and Priscilla Jennings. So I recognize some

of the names in the articles.

If you could find the time to ask Troy and Dale to give permission for me to have their e-mail addresses or mailing addresses, I would be more than grateful.

You have a wonderful paper, chuck full of photos and articles that I so enjoy!

**The Rev. Dr. Ray Porth,**  
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Dear Editor:

I do apologize for seemingly hijacking the letter to the editor column in the last few editions, but I do feel the need to respond to a few letters which had referred to my previous one. In the recent ones incorrect, and misleading claims were made, and I wish to clear up a few points.

First in Mr. Weatherby's letter, he tries to mine a quote from Darwins Origin of species. He correctly quotes the line "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous successive, slight modifications, my theory would break down." But what is left out is the very next line which states "But I could find no such case.". Then using this quote out of context, the claim is made that the eye is an example of this case. It is claimed that eye sight is an irreducibly complex system.

This is a fallacy. There are many theories to explain how the eye evolved. One common theory is that the eye evolved from light sensitive cells which some simple animals have to this day. And if by means of the evolutionary process, it would be very easy to understand how the process takes place. The claim that the eye is irreducibly

complex is fundamentally flawed from a logical point of view, and an argument from personal incredulity.

It is interesting to note, that Dr. Behe's (the grandfather of irreducible complexity) employers and colleagues at Lehigh University, have required a disclaimer regarding intelligent design. It reads....

"The department faculty, then, are unequivocal in their support of evolutionary theory, which has its roots in the seminal work of Charles Darwin and has been supported by findings accumulated over 140 years.

The sole dissenter from this position, Prof. Michael Behe, is a well-known proponent of "intelligent design." While we respect Prof.

Be he's right to express his views, they are his alone and are in no way endorsed by the department. It is our collective position that intelligent design has no basis in science, has not been tested experimentally, and should not be regarded as scientific. ("http://www.lehigh.edu/~inbios/news/evolution.htm"). Doesn't sound like a reliable source for a scientific theory.

In Mr. Adams letter, he made claims that a growing number of esteemed scientists are now questioning evolution. Although there are sci-

entists that question evolution, they are very very much in the minority. To display this point, there is an interesting petition where scientists who are skeptical of evolution may sign to show their disagreement with Darwins theory. It is called the Scientific Dissent from Darwinism. As of August 2008 there are approximately 761. Seems like alot huh. As a counter, and done quite tongue in cheek, The National Center for Science Education, created Project Steve (dedicated to Stephen Jay Gould). This is signed by scientists who support evolution, but there is one catch.

they must be named Steve, or a variation. This limits the list to only about 1 percent of the population. Currently there are 1084 Steves who signed the petition. As a comparison, the SDFD currently has 8 Steve's.

Next in Mr. Adams letter, he gave a list of scientists who were

theists There are many many theist scientists who know that evolution

is a fact. Also many on his list are from a time where theism was much more prevalent, so the expectation would be that they would be theists.

Populating the list of scientists, are 5 that died before the Origin of Species was

even written. 3 engineers, and 3 mathematicians, who do not study in the evolution field, and one who's experiments support evolution. As far as theism goes, Darwin himself was planning on becoming a clergyman, and was in no way an atheist.

Just for knowledge sake, Einstein believed in the god of Spinoza, and was not a theist. The evolution / Intelligent design debate is in no way a theist / atheist argument. It is instead a science / non-science argument.

Lastly Mr. Adams makes claims of a lack of evidence for evolution. I question how thorough Mr. Adams is in his research of evolution and its evidence. Evolution has been observed, and evolutionary theory is one of the most evidentially proven theories in science. As for mounting evidence for design. Scientifically the evidence does not exist. It only exists in the human imagination. If nature could speak for itself regarding design, it would whisper only one word. Pareidolia

I could go on for hours on this subject, but I do not wish to bore the readers more than I already have.

Cheers  
Troy Spencer  
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Good God?

Hmmmmmmmmmmmm!  
Evolution or Creation! Something called "Intelligent Design" and there is another kid on the block called:

"Process Theology" that considers another angle to God, so if you worry, or believe that all "evolutionaires" dismiss a God. You might have choices!

I have not seen that wretched (according to Troy) movie (or was it a documentary?).

And I don't care to, but I have looked at (not really studied, just like the intelligent design folks don't seem to) a fair bit of stuff over my lifetime and to me the story (or science, it does not really matter) fascinates me.

This overwhelming puzzle of life, with so many pieces missing, each newly discov-

ered one, potentially opening new or closing old windows, offers hope and comfort to me: We are part of something and we are going somewhere.

If there is a God it will be confirmed! It is all about faith, is it not?

The God of creation (intelligent design) as presented by some, appears to me as an immoral being.

If we create potentially hellish living conditions for our pets or livestock (for our benefit), we will be charged with animal abuse when this hell materializes.

There are untold numbers of creatures living and dying under horrific conditions for the sake of their Creator who cast the "Die" (kind of ironic word is it not?) so long ago, in spite of the overwhelming Odds. For whose benefit? And

they call this a loving God?

Their God is playing chicken and we are getting fried!

It just does not make sense to me.

I hope for a God that travels with us (God help us) if it appears there is one, but for now my God stands for the common good of all living things.

As far as I am concerned, the so called research into Creation by Intelligent Design is rather shallow, unimaginative, narrow focused and led by fear and misrepresentation!

Example: Last year I picked up a (yes) comicbook in a "Christian bookstore" depicting the making of a movie in which evolution was a given. The producers were portrayed as shallow, evil, money-grabbing lowlifes with obvi-

ous Jewish facial features. The cast was pictured as rather unattractive looking, except for the main character who turned out to be a poor sinner (handsome fellow though) sucked into this moviemaking scheme.

In the middle of all this arrive two handsome (blue-eyed aryan, of course) young christian men in suits, with a perfect clean looking haircut who quickly save the sinning, lost (but handsome) main character from himself, by proving evolution is a hoax by quickly quoting some "respectable" scientists!

I followed up on those quotes, only to find them taken out of context or repudiated later by previously quoted scientist.

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