

REES' Pieces

The Power of Number 7

Wow, times are changing quickly and the pace will continue non-stop for a while.

That makes it difficult for us humans. The one thing we don't like is change, but adjust we must. Last year has brought about more change than we have seen in the previous decade.

Many times change, although resisted, is good, but very little of what we have been experiencing is not good. In fact it is downright destructive.

A year ago, we were still riding high with over a dozen years of unprecedented growth. The warning signals were there, but we either failed to notice them, or ignored them completely, because we did not want to experience additional change.

If we think back 25-30 years, we experienced economic turmoil in the late 70's with high interest rates; in the mid-80's a rocky road appeared again; in the 90's business economic turmoil was nipping at our heels again.

As we look back, it seems like the folklore tradition that everything happens in seven year cycles. If so, we need to mark our calendar, for when the next period of rapid change, good or bad, besets upon us.

In Canada a bit more than two years ago, Asset Backed Paper Bonds collapsed. Many financial institutions and large volume investors lost the buttons off their shirt, if not, the entire shirt.

Purdy Crawford, formerly of Sobeys fame, headed a government committee to solve the matter. Many institutional investors are still licking their wounds.

It's now almost two years since other financial products were unable to complete their IPO's (Initial public offerings). Not wanting to face the music, those failures were blamed on the quality of the products rather than trouble brewing below the surface. Banks started to tighten up lending practices about a year before, most of us realized what was happening.

South of the border the financial meltdown started about 15 months ago, with the sub-prime mortgages, but not many said anything. It's my belief those who were in the know, or should have known, stayed quiet because of greed. Greed would permit them to strategize how they could reduce their exposure to turmoil.

Of course, greed was not limited to those professionals. It was rampant amongst us normal people. Homeowners were basking in the fact, their property was increasing in value, and they soon would be able to pull out their equity, selling at a high price, enabling them to buy a larger more extravagant property, with very little equity, and do it all over again.

Greed is all that it was. No one should expect to double their money on residential real estate within five years, if they paid fair market value in the beginning. Greed caused many to be blind-to-the-fact, and in come cases it bordered on stupidity.

I, turned 62 last week, and don't profess to know much about economics, but I've been around long enough to know what goes up, eventually comes down, and what is down will eventually go up.

The number seven or its multiples always seems to play a part. If someone has the time to research Canadian life since 1939, look for things (anything, not just financial) happening in cycles of 7, 14 and 21.

For a practice run, make a note of important things in your life regardless of when they happened. Make sure you pick things that are positive and negative. Then see what numerical cycles evolve.

At the beginning I mentioned change and the pace of change. The fact we now have an NDP government is not surprising, when we look at history, and the # 7 principle. What happened recently and how much everyone wanted change is a natural progression.

Governed either by Conservatives or Liberals, many feel neither of them have really done much to effect massive changes in Nova Scotia. In fact, some people quietly blame them for the state we are in.

Demanding change and the economy to be corrected once and for all, people decided to vote for massive political change. I'm not saying Dexter's NDP will get it correctly, but people voted for change, and now they have it. The proving ground is four years, plus.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Hi Maurice:

I am working on a little history of Isaac's Lake, which is just across the county line, into Cumberland County. It is located on Westchester Mountain., a couple of km's past Sutherland's Lake. I need assistance from the public concerning history and folklore surrounding the Lake?

What I'm looking for in particular (but am interested in it all) is information (families, names, dates, etc.) on logging activity around the Lake; the origin of the name. On the AF Church Map of 1873 it is known as Rushton's Lake. There was once a Hermit who lived close to the Lake. I'd also be interested in old pictures, maps or information on old fishing & hunting camps, property owners or family history. Anyone who has any information at all is invited to contact me Ph: 902-662-3867; sculgin@eastlink.ca or General Delivery, Belmont, NS B0M 1C0

Sincerely, Stacey (McCully), Belmont

Hi Maurice

Thanks for the special deal you gave to the Great Village Farmer's Market with our full page ad in the June issue.

The ad looked very good and I have had many positive comments about it.

Thanks again, Bruce Corrigan

To hell with political correctness.

I would like to pretend, I am standing on the sidelines laughing like Mr. Van den Hoek, but I am not laughing. The issue being played by your newspaper is of supreme importance. Simply stated, the theory of evolution as proposed by Darwin Vs the Holy Bible (some actually believe both, talk about faith).

The fact is, science prove nothing, both side use science to their own ends. It takes every bit as much faith to believe the Bible as it does to believe the theory of evolution. Either way you are committing your life to it, unless you are a hypocrite.

The thing that really muddies these waters is the hypocrites. They say, they believe either evolution or the Bible, but they don't act like it.

Both sides are overflowing with full blown hypocrites. Those of us, who are evolutionists, how should we live if we believe there is no God, no coming judgment, or those of us who believe the Bible, who believe in a coming judgment?

What should our lives look like if we truly believe what we say, we believe? It is the hypocrites, who are the largest group amongst us and

who continue to muddy the water. These are the ones without faith or commitment, who add to the confusion.

Don't be fooled, there is a hug difference between a true evolutionist and a true Bible believer. Their lives portray the difference. All I know for certain is that one of them is a fool.

Curtis Eagles, Londonderry, NS

Dear Editor:

I have been following the "Letters to the Editor" in your paper this past few months and feel compelled to write in response to an issue that was raised in Mr. William van den Hoek's letter in the June issue. I believe it was also mentioned in an earlier letter to the editor.

Apparently, he thinks that anyone who believes in creation/intelligent design believes that God created everything on earth as we see it today. This is far from what we believe. He is right to say that a god who would create animals (and people) to suffer and face all kinds of horrific conditions would be "an immoral being".

In Genesis 1: 31, in the Bible, we read: "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was good". But something happened. This change is summarized in Romans 5: 12, "Wherefore as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned". Romans 8: 19-22 speaks of the whole creation groaning in pain because of sin. So don't use all the suffering and death in the world as an excuse for not being able to accept that there is a Creator.

David F. Cole, Oxford, NS

Good Morning Maurice:

Just picked up my copy of the Shoreline Journal and am writing to say thanks for the great coverage of our Relay for life fundraiser as well as the photo spread of this year's Village Follies dinner theatre. Haven't got through the rest yet but am sure that there are many items of interest to catch up on.

Regards, John W. Harrington

Dear Editor:

As one of the early subscribers, when Ken Kennedy began this popular paper, later taken over by a second editor, the Journal has been a wonderful monthly issue with Historic Days and Happenings. We waited each month at the Post Office for it, hurried home to read it, and phone our friends "Did you see.... in the Journal?"

It was great as a gift to

friends, also a review of the Special things of "Olden Days", things younger children had never learned about until it was in that "Great Shoreline" and Ken was a visitor in our homes, schools, etc.

Recalling my part in the Newspaper, I wrote several articles about 31 years teaching in Five Islands to Lower Onslow school activities. About Old time Fiddlers, other accompanists, Silica Lake mining in Castreigh and shipping of product to Bass River, and on to the world, Five Islands mining barites, etc; lodge and church activities, Dominion Chair Factory Store, lumbering, etc.; the local grocers, barber shops, ice cream parlours, mail delivery, and drivers; horse exchange enroute from Economy - Londonderry; mail drivers, (e.g. Charlie Thompson, Ed Doyle, Ed Lewis, Chester Johnson, etc.; Post office Services by Postmasters and Mistresses, etc.

The hours were very important and delivery in Post Office, we knew all the attendants. It was Our World. Our Post people were helped by Telephone operators, who kept our homes safe by the information they were the first people to know (doctors, driver and on and on). Of course it was replaced by modern ways, but was truly (and is still) active by electronics.

Those earlier days were happy ones, friendly one we will never forget and the personal help was truly amazing. One of our most friendly telephone operators was Myrtle MacIntosh.

She relieved our tension, made us laugh, and treated us to a loving cup of tea or lunch. She knew who drove the buses, who needed doctor services. We were informed by the factory whistle - the lifeguard of Bass River. Who needed a clock? The whistle sounded it to everyone.

As I look back 93 years in life during 1916 to 2009 memories of these things are in my mind daily. Bass River was and still is home, although I've roamed and lived in Newfoundland, BC, stopped over in many other parts of Canada. I was born in the natural beauty of Five Islands.

Since my eyesight has deteriorated, and I decided not to renew my subscription? I really, really miss the monthly. Please accept my cheque to being now.

(Antique, deaf, almost blind, severely crippled as of now). Good luck to all. All new editors, editorial, etc. It is enlarged, interesting and poplar.

Sincerely, Merna Perry

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Rees,

As a member of the Village Follies, I would like to express my thanks to you both. Your placement of our fundraising picture on the front page of The Shoreline Journal was very generous. The Canadian Cancer Society is a cause which is close to my heart, and I am sure your publicity will help us to raise more money for a very worthy cause.

Thanks, also, for the pictures of our dinner theatre production in your latest edition. Your coverage is appreciated.

*Sincerely Yours,
Shannon Fielding*

To the Editor:

In Troy Spencer's letter to the editor in your June edition, he takes issue with my statement that a "growing number of esteemed scientists are questioning evolution". I stand by the statement. The fact that they are still very much in the minority proves nothing. The fact that they are still in the minority by an amazing margin proves nothing either. I am quite confident that the majority of people can be wrong, and are often wrong, about a lot of things.

I also believe there is at least a partial explanation for the overwhelming numbers that Troy cites. That explanation is what the 'Expelled' documentary is really about, getting back to the issue. When intimidation and discrimination tactics are employed systemically in academic circles, the truth is the first casualty. Those who have misgivings or legitimate concerns about the lack of good evidence for evolutionary theory fear to say what they think publicly because the price is high - loss of tenure, loss of job, loss of research monies, black listing ... Dissenters pay the price. Intellectual coercion is nothing new.

Then Troy takes issue with the list of renowned scientists I referenced who believed in a Creator. His main point is that none of them are contemporary, but my reason for choosing in the first place the names I did was that they are very recognizable for the average person. If I provided names of contemporary scientists (who I freely admit are in the minority) people would not likely recognize them which would defeat the purpose.

I want to try and take the focus back to the main point of my original letter in response to Troy's first letter. In his first letter Troy concludes, and I quote, "Basically, to be a scientist and ID

continued on page 5

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

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