

REES' Pieces

It's embarrassing & our fault

We are into a federal election. When it's over, I suspect voter turn-out will again be lower than in the last election. Is it any wonder?

One bad apple spoils the barrel. Birds of a feather flock together. A leopard can't change its spots.

All are family sayings handed down for generations. We've heard them enough we believe them.

Voters do not hide their disappointment in elected representatives. That's the reason many of them don't vote. There are "bad apples" in all the parties, which include charges of contempt, RCMP investigations and much more in Ottawa; provincially it's the ongoing MLA expense scandal, charges being laid against previous and current MLAs; and now the concert scandal in Halifax and Summerside.

How much more?

From top to bottom things amiss, every level of government is suffering from "me-itis". Many seem to have forgotten how they got elected and to whom they owe allegiance. I am not suggesting it's all elected officials. Far from it.

However, birds of a feather comes to mind, because politicians have not taken an aggressive stand to demand the full extent of the law be applied to the guilty. All are somewhat guilty through association, because they have not openly advocated what the voter is saying -. CLEAN UP THE MESS.

At all levels, the next election issue should be constant questioning, almost bombardment, from the voters asking all candidates, what will they do to remove the sand boxes, where elected officials fling personal insults and take the voter for granted?

If you have been watching television, it's obvious citizens of the mid-eastern countries are demanding change and are putting their lives at risk for betterment of the citizens. We don't need to take to the streets, but we do need to show we care and have a back bone.

If as voters, we don't ask the hard questions and demand some quick clean-up action, we deserve what we get. If we say or do nothing and stay home on voting day, the embarrassment will continue and we have only ourselves to blame.

Enough about the federal election.

Let's look at the province's finances. We are in for a rough budget. It seems removing the marrow from the bone may be the Dexter government's approach to solving financial woes. We need to tighten our belts. We cannot ask for more, or suggest cuts should apply to everyone else. We all have to take "some" lumps.

Balancing the budget and reducing the deficit can be pro-active and simultaneously develop the economy. There's a world-wide shortage of food.

Food prices have risen about 8% in recent months; fuel costs are rising; Canadians are not eating properly. "Buy Local" initiatives are gaining momentum, yet Nova Scotia has thousands of acres of idle agriculture land. The rural economy would improve if idle land was made productive.

A recent study concluded, for every dollar spent on local products, approximately 42 cents goes into the economy, whereas buying "non-local" contributes only about 14 cents of every dollar. If we focused on buying from local producers and outlets, each of us could help contribute to the economy. Shift 10% of food purchases to local and we contribute \$19-million more to the local economy.

Reducing education costs: I've wondered why local tradespeople are not utilized for minor repairs at a school. Instead, staff have to call the central office for a maintenance person. Why are local people, perhaps, students not encouraged to apply for contracts to mow and trim the grounds. Each school has a budget. Staff could award and administer the contracts.

Have we lost all focus on keeping the local economy moving? If it can be done more economically, why not BUY LOCAL?

As voters and taxpayers, we must stop complaining - demand action to grow the local economy and put control back to the local community, letting residents supplement family income. Let them feel proud they are contributing to the betterment of their area? It's not mega-bucks, but it starts the process.

Here's a suggestion, contact your school board representative, elected representative and government office demanding changes. Then, and only then voice your opinion, write a letter to the editor stating what you have done.

Stand up and be counted, our veterans did. Or, do we not have a back bone?

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Folks and Area Community Groups:

Elizabeth Bishop was a Pulitzer Prize winning writer who despite being born in the U.S. always considered Great Village, Nova Scotia her home. This year is the 100 anniversary of her birth, and there are celebrations around the world and in Nova Scotia. For the past two years a small group of volunteers from the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia, has been hard at work planning a three day festival that will high-light our shore and our communities. It is being held this August 19th, 20th and 21st. As the time draws closer, we want to let you know some of the plans and to ask you to consider being a part of this celebration. At the start of the summer season, we are planning to install Elizabeth Bishop centenary banners and flower baskets in all of the communities from Five Islands to Masstown. A trip down our shore is always beautiful, and this summer the entire area will look festive. We would also like to invite everyone that lives along Hwy. #2, to also think about adding a few extra flowers to your own planters this year.

We have planned a variety of events and activities for the festival, and we sincerely hope that you will join us for some of them. We have three evenings of amazing concerts (including Rankin, Crowe & Church, performing in Saint James Church on the Saturday evening). We have six famous Canadian writers coming to do readings on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons. On the Sunday morning, all of the area churches are being invited to participate in a community Church

service set in 1911 (and you're encouraged to wear hats or clothing from 1911). Our Bass River Heritage Society is holding their Heritage Day on August 20th. This year we plan to have a blacksmith jamboree next to the Bass River Museum, to celebrate the importance of Elizabeth Bishop's Mate Fisher who was featured in her writings. For those of you who do a little writing, we have six writing workshops on the Saturday morning, in the grand houses of Great Village. One of these workshops will be led by Sheree Fitch, and is just for kids.

There is one event in particular that we hope all community groups, interested kids and adults will participate in. On the Saturday afternoon, we will hold the "Board to Boat Contest". Each team of 4, will have two and a half hours in either Bass River or Great Village to craft their cardboard boat. We'll provide the duct tape and cardboard, but each team will be responsible for bringing their own life jackets. Once the boats are completed, we will gather in Great Village and have the official judging for the prettiest boat. This will be followed by a walking parade of boats up to a local pond where we will have the boat races (and yes every boat will have to carry one or two people). We will have lots of wonderful prizes, so even if your team loses you could win "most spectacular sinking"! If you would like to issue a challenge to another community group or team, we will ensure that you are both racing at the same time.

Our weekend also includes some amazing food; an expanded Great Village Market on the Saturday morning, a barbeque and

a blueberry tea and special meals at many of the restaurants between Five Islands and Masstown!

We want you to help make this festival a success, by planning to attend. We also need volunteers. If you have a couple of hours during the festival, or are interested in helping with the planning, we'd love to hear from you. To volunteer, please email: ebfestival2011@gmail.com, or call Danica Laking: 902 897 7629

For more information, please visit:
www.elizabethbishop.ns.org

Dear Maurice:

I will be 90 on July 30, 2011. I'm enclosing my renewal subscription. .

I have been taking the Shore every since it started and plan to continue. Just wish there was more from our area, but realize you need to have a contact from this area.

Iona Canning
Five Islands, NS.

(Editor's Note: For three years, I been trying to find a writer from Five Islands and other areas, but without positive results. Perhaps Mrs. Canning's comments will cause someone to step up to the plate).

Dear Maurice

Along with my renewal cheque, I wish to say you're doing a wonderful job.

I would also like to mention that my sister-in-law, Helen Slack, will be celebrating her 90th on August 10th. She is also a Shoreline subscriber and lives in Truro.

Margaret Barnes
Londonderry, NS

Dear Editor:

On Feb. 27th, I stepped out in the yard and saw our garage door opened.

As I approached, there were footprints in the snow leading out to the road. They also waded through knee high snow attempting to get into a nearby shed.

I had let my guard down and failed to lock the door and turn on the security light. Gone are a Costco, Kirkland auto battery and two Poulan chainsaws.

The saws are lime green in colour and very good shape. It is hard for me to say if other items are gone and probably won't know until I need them. I am now keeping a record of everything.

So, fellow readers, if you are not locking up at night someone out there thinks they have the right to take what does not belong to them. Thank you.

Ross Gordon,
Great Village

Dear Dorothy or Maurice,

I was searching for online Newspaper Recipes in Canada, and learned about your site. It was full of interesting recipes from contributors. Do you have all the archived years of Recipes that I could go to?

I have seen the recipes for 2009, 2010, and 2011. Are there any recipes that can be viewed before the year 2009?

I so love to cook and exchange recipes.....especially the recipes that are tried and true.....

Thank you so much for all the work you two do in maintaining such an interesting Cooking Column...

Peace and Blessings,
Carmel Howcroft,
Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Dear Maurice:

Sorry to be so late renewing my subscription. I was visiting James in Nepean, then I got sick.

You'll be interested to know his March copy arrived on March 2nd.

Eileen Eaton
Great Village

Bass River Notes

By Joyce Starratt

Isn't it nice to see the snow and ice going away? I know I was tired of slipping and sliding over it. The sun has a lot of power in it, now, and it warm if you are out of the wind.

The robins are back. I haven't seen any yet. The black birds are also back. I believe they are grackles, I just call them yellow eyed blackbirds.

We are pleased that Betty Creelman is home from the hospital and Jim Chipman is home. Although he is not from my area, I want to send our sympathy to the family of the later Rev. Wayne Yorke, a Five Islands native, although he was in the pastoral charge in West Bay, Cape Breton.

Pray for the people of Japan, who are facing such sorrow and travesty. Even with all the snow and then the black flies, don't we live in the best place in the world?

I would like to add more history to the story of the Box Factory. Before it was the Box factory or a warehouse for the Dominion Chair Factory, it was a woodworking plant owned by H. J. Lewis. It was owned by the Lewis family from 1919-1953. So we grew up with the Bart Lewis' Shop.

He made windows, plain and storm, doors and the Crow Pump. I saw one. Charles Campbell brought one to the store to show us. I don't remember any boxes being made, it was not mentioned at home.

Bert was the father of Logan, Floyd and Audrey (Max) MacLellan. I didn't write this to dispute Martha's story. After all Martha or Jimmie were not likely born til after the factory was close. I though the early years of the old building would be mentioned.

All for now. I'm waiting for the pancake brunches to start.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BELMONT:
Belmont General Store

DEBERT:
Barnhill's Superette
Debert Mini-Mart

ECONOMY:
Economy Country Store

FIVE ISLANDS:
Diane's Restaurant
Ellis Video
Masstown Market Five Islands
Mo's Café

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop
Glenholme General Store

GREAT VILLAGE:
C. D. Smith's Rite-Stop
Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:
Masstown Market

NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery

ONSLow:
Onslow Market

PARRSBORO:
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
Cavanagh's Market Ltd.
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)

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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.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • **ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION:** Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • **ALL PARTS OF NS:** \$26.00 plus HST = \$29.90
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$28.00, plus HST = \$32.20 • **USA SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$40.00
HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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