

REES' Pieces

Where to start, what's ahead

Recently, it seems there is much more turbulence in life than we normally have to deal with at this time of the year. So many important things buzzing around it's difficult to get focused, so I've decided to add a paragraph or two on each of them.

GAS PRICES: With gas prices spiking to their highest level since 2008, we need to be worried about the impact on the economy and family budgets. 2008 gas price spiking was followed by over two years of recession. Could we be headed for a repeat? It's difficult for the Nova Scotia economy, when gas prices here are 5-6 cents more per litre than adjacent New Brunswick, and if you are in PEI, expect to pay upwards of 11 cents less per litre.

I'm not an economist, but I find it hard to rationalize, how prices in PEI could be so much lower, since they don't have a refinery and fuel must be trucked over the Confederation Bridge. Is the Nova Scotia government permitting oil companies to make additional money, or is it in fact, the government who is racking in the big buck? Call your local MLA and ask them to get you the answer.

ROBO CALLS: Ottawa is being turned upside down with accusations of political dirty tricks and the possibility of criminal activity contravening the Elections Canada Act. It's possible future investigations, if they materialize, could show all parties were playing the game, or just one had their hand deeper into the cookie jar. Aggravating calls do not count. What matters is getting to the bottom of anything illegal and making sure the full affects of the law are handed out to those guilty.

What I do know is the accusations, denials, and name calling has tarnished the image of all politicians in Canada. If Canada expects to have more people engaged in the political world or at least exercising their rite to vote, it would be helpful if MP's in Ottawa acted like professionals, and not a yard full of 4-5 year olds fighting in a sandbox.

ELECTION BAIT? Darrel Dexter's NDP government is talking about a small personal income tax decrease in the upcoming budget to be delivered in early April. Maybe an income tax deduction is a forerunner to an election platform. If so, does that mean flying high in the approval ratings with the 30-40 year shipyard jobs for Halifax area, Darrell will go to the polls this fall? Oh, by the way, even though over \$1-million was spent on "Jobs Start Here", the decision was that of the Federal Government. Provincially, we had nothing to do with the decision. Hard to make an election plank out of something which was not accomplished.

Maintaining the current taxation levels and finding a way to reduce gasoline and diesel prices would provide more relief for taxpayers many of whom are at the lower end of the income scale and are having enough difficulty scraping by from week to week.

MASSTOWN INTERSECTION: Appeals to install warning traffic lights at the Masstown Intersection, goes back almost a decade when then councilor Doug Cooke took up the cause. More recently current councilor, Tom Taggart, has been pushing for the cause. In this issue, MLA, Karen Casey has voiced her concern on Page 5. None of the previous three appear to be satisfied with previous studies. The matter is going to Municipal Council as soon as it can be placed on the agenda. Is the lack of forward movement because of budget restraints, or has someone just dug in their heels and said, "NO".

CLIMATE WARMING: Even though we thoroughly enjoyed the unusually hot weather last week, and are proud of the records we set. Coming in a 29.4 degrees, Western Head was warmer than Honolulu. However, the downfall could be the damage suffered to the fruit and vegetable crops in the region. With apple and cherry trees in full bloom, it only takes one cool night of -3 degrees for a few hours to wipe out an entire crop.

Other than the credit union closing and 125 positions being eliminated by the shool board, which are our Page 1 stories, did I miss anything?

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

MAIL TO: *The Shoreline Journal*, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0
(902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Dear Maurice:

Enclosed is my renewal subscription due in March.
Also I would like to register for the 90 & 90+ celebration. My daughter Joyce Canning will accompany me. We were both at this enjoyable event last year.

Many thanks, Iona Canning
Five Islands

(Editor's note: We are still accepting registrations for the 90 & 90+ Birthday celebration for residents, formerly from the area, even though they might be living elsewhere. Call 902-647-2968 or email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

Dear Maurice:

I'm sorry, but I think I'll have to resident as the news writer for Bass River. My hand is getting so it doesn't want to always do as I want it to do. I have enjoyed doing it.

I've tried to make it sound as if we (readers and I) were having a conversation not just a list of what people had done. Hope you find someone to take over with not too much trouble.

Sincerely, Joyce Starratt

Dear editor:

Colorectal cancer, also known as colon cancer, is the third leading cause of death from cancer for both men and

women in Nova Scotia. The good news is that colon cancer is one of the most highly treatable cancers if caught early. Unfortunately, most Canadians have not had a screening test and are confused about how and when it should happen.

Evidence shows that colon cancer deaths could be significantly reduced if Canadians between the ages of 50 and 74 had a stool test every two years. Stool tests help identify polyps before they become cancerous. March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month and Doctors Nova Scotia urge all Nova Scotians age 50 years and older to talk to their doctor about colon cancer and the screening

test that is right for you. While nobody is completely safe from colon cancer, those at a higher risk include men and women over the age of 50, persons with a first-degree relative with colon cancer, such as a parent and individuals with a personal history of colon cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, some inherited syndromes and persons with benign polyps of the colon or rectum.

Those at increased risk should talk to their doctor about appropriate screening. You can lower your risk of developing colon cancer by combining regular exercise with a diet high in fibre, calcium, fruits and vegetables.

Talk to your doctor about colon cancer before signs and symptoms appear. To learn more about colon cancer please visit, www.getscreenednovascotia.ca.

Sincerely,
John Chiasson, BSc, MD
President, Doctors Nova Scotia
www.doctorsns.com

Bending To Clean-Up Good Exercise

By Chris Urgubart

As I drive around our community of Masstown I see many fallen branches, scraps of litter, piles of mud and leaves and still some bits of left over ice and snow. Now is the time to start to make your yards look beautiful again! Compost those "sticks", bag up the litter, spread the mud and gravel back where it should be and check to see if any of your "garbage" has blown into the neighbour's yards.

Being a good neighbour is very important, and if you let your plastic bags, milk cartons, etc. blow around the neighbourhood, you aren't being a good neighbour. Take the time to look

closely at your yard: do you want someone else's mess blowing into your yard?

Do you want to have to pick up someone else's garbage? Make this Spring not only a time of renewal for nature but for your neighbourliness.

If you are out walking, and many people walk along the roads in our nice, fresh, clean air; take a bag with you and pick up as you walk. If you are walking for the exercise, just think of all that bending!! Also, you may find refundables which you can turn in for cash or donate to the Masstown Church towards their new roof! See - it's easy to be a good neighbour!

Diligent River to get War Memorial

By Gale Boland

A group of Diligent River area citizens are working on erecting a war memorial to honour local residents who enlisted in the two great wars and the Korean War. To ensure all eligible names are included the committee is asking for names to be submitted by May 15, 2012.

In 2010, Veterans Affairs Canada established the Community War Memorial Program (CWMP) to partner with communities across Canada to build cenotaphs / monuments and major additions to existing cenotaphs / monuments. This program inspired the residents of Diligent River, in Cumberland County, to seek funding assistance to erect a monument to honour their own local veterans.

While researching the history of the Diligent River and Wharton area, Gale (Allen) Boland discovered at least 40 local boys / men had served in either World War I, World War II or the Korean War. Since then she has attempted to ensure

that the list of veterans is complete and is asking for the relatives of area veterans to contact her to confirm their identity, the correct spelling of their name and when they served.

The monument in Diligent River will honour those who were born in Ramshead River, Glasgow Mountain, Yorke Settlement, Diligent River and Wharton; those who were residents of these areas when they enlisted and / or those who have been long term residents of these areas.

All eligible names submitted by April 30th will be included on the War Memorial at no charge. If additional names are submitted to the committee after the deadline, they can be added but at the personal cost of \$200 to cover expenses of on-site addition.

To include your family veteran please contact Gale Boland, Secretary / Treasurer of the Diligent River Community Hall Association at 902-254-3283 or by e-mail at bolandpatricia@hotmail.com

April Church Service Schedule

By Christine Urqubart

Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge Church services for the month of April will be: Palm Sunday April 1st, 10am in Masstown with the service led by the Sunday School. Maundy Thursday April 5th service will be held at Erskine United in Glenholme at 7pm, led by Rev. David Lloyd-Pearce, the minister in Great Village, who are invited to join us at this service.

On Good Friday April 6th we are joining up with Great Village at their Church at 7pm led by Rev. David Lloyd-Pearce. On Easter Sunday April 8th there will be a Sunrise Service at 7am in Masstown, led by student Minister Cory Lunn, with breakfast to follow.

A regular Easter service will be held at 10am in Debert led by Rev. Betty Darby. For the remainder of April services will all be at 10am with Sunday School. April 15th - Erskine United, Glenholme; April 22nd Masstown United, and April 29th Debert United. We invite you to join us at any and all of these services.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) 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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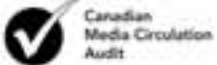

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