

# REES' Pieces

## We need to turn 180° . . . . . . then take action

Nearly every day, I notice some mention about Ray Ivany telling us we need to make drastic changes, which are basically a total cultural change. The Ivany Report painted an accurate picture of the state of our affairs and it is not pretty.

Individually and collectively we need to put our shoulders to the wheel and come up with workable solutions to redirect Nova Scotia's future from one of despair and decline to one of optimism and riches.

Ivany believes we can do it, or he and his committee would not have said it.

We don't like change, but we must adhere to his warnings, or Nova Scotia will forever be a "poor province" and things will only get worse. Canso had to give up its charter as a Town, and be folded in with the Municipality of Guysborough. Springhill's council voted to join the Municipality of Cumberland in 2015.

There are rumours perhaps another six or eight communities are facing the same fate. The constant decline of rural and small community Nova Scotia has taken its toll. Enough is enough.

These situations happened because as Nova Scotians like to hang on to our past, and resist changes.

The time has come. We must change our ways. To go forward successfully, we must all work together to do things differently.

In the 80's there was talk about using geo-thermal assets in Springhill to entice a lot of industry to the town, especially greenhouse operations. If all the hype had been converted into action, Springhill would not be in the situation it faces today.

Stronger action could have saved many of the fishing plant jobs in Canso, not the 1,800 who used to work on a seasonal basis, but certainly enough to have a prosperous coastal town.

We have fantastic forestry, mining, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, offshore oil and gas and tourism assets. We could be extracting more to benefit from those resources without destroying our environment. We need to reverse the out-migration of our citizens. When we get our house in order, tradespeople can continue working "out west". Let's make sure our future is bright, so their families stay here, while they commute to work at high paying jobs.

If Nova Scotia languishes in the doldrums, it's our fault. We can be as profitable as any area in North America, but it will take us to make sure it happens. If you look at the turn around in the USA economy and the riches and jobs they have gained in the last decade we can do the same thing.

Yes, I am alluding to fracking.

A geology professional in Nova Scotia, who has been studying fracking for 30 years, maintains there is no threat to the environment if: the drill casing is installed correctly and cement is allowed to cure properly. The only way things could go wrong is if a previous drill hole, was not capped properly or a spill of fracking fluids above ground.

In the Kennetcook area, the Windsor block is reported to contain approximately 70 Trillion cubic feet of natural gas. With 9%-14% extraction this translates into \$100-million per year for 20 years.

The same geology exists from Kennetcook up through Alton, where a natural gas storage facility will be constructed in the salt dunes, continuing to end up near Guysborough, where two if not three Liquidified Natural Gas (LNG) plants are being discussed as export terminals for India and China.

Can you think of a new business in the Kennetcook area capable of producing in excess of \$100-million per year, plus inputs to the economy from having LNG plants dotting our coastline? How much more would additional fracking sites add to the provincial economy? Could fracking provide the roadmap to greater prosperity?

Yes, there are many who are opposed to fracking. We need to study and learn. If we have scientific proof, it is safe, then we need to pressure our politicians to act quickly.

It took 30 years for the lack of action on a geo-thermal opportunity to reach the point Springhill had to throw in the towel.

Do we want to tell our grandchildren, their plight and poverty is because we failed to take action when needed?

**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  
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March 7, 2014  
Dear Editor:

"I am presently working on the history of East Folly Mountain. I am interested in compiling a collection of photos and data on the old homes, businesses and families who once resided up on Debert Mountain.

If anyone has any items of interest (documents, photos, etc.) which would be of interest to add to this collection I would love to meet with you and hear your stories". Please contact me at: 662-3867 sculgin@eastlink.ca

Sincerely  
Stacey (McCully) Culgin

March 5, 2014  
Dear Maurice:

I was interested in the items of the March 2014 issue re: Great Village United Church, former Presbyterian, and its History.

In the "Memorials of The Rev. John Sprott", of Musquodoboit, published 1909 by his son George, there is an important account of the Jubilee of Ministry of Rev. John Brown, minister at that time of The Londonderry Parish, which included Great Village and all the villages west along the Cobequid Bay, held July 30, 1845. Brown died April 7th, 1848 and his wife Dec. 13, 1848. Londonderry Mines, as we know it today, did not even exist at that time.

Sprott, writing in 1845, makes the claim that this was the first Jubilee Service for a local clergy to be held "in this Country" (meaning Nova Scotia, and I suspect Canada). The service celebrated the 50th year of Rev. John Brown's Ministry.

The account makes reference to the church at Great Village, which is "new and scarcely finished". Rev. James Bayne, the Junior Pastor to Rev. John Brown, "began the service by giving out a part of the 132nd

Psalm, and reading portions of Solomon's Prayer at the Dedication of the Temple" (of OT Jerusalem).

Sprott describes the event: "As the day arose...stillness was broken by the heavy tread of horse and foot, issuing from the forests and streaming away to the house of God. Long rows of carriages moved on, crowded with people, like the deck of a steam boat. I counted twenty-five carriages in one of these rows, and yet the column was several miles from the church. In all they must have amounted to some hundreds. Mr. Bayne...introduced the venerable Mr. Brown as beginning his ministry in a smoky log house...near the place where we stood. ...The congregations (of the total Londonderry Parish) put a purse of money in the hands of Mr. Brown as a small token of their affectionate regard for faithful services. ...The day concluded with a good dinner for the clergy, and other guests and strangers were treated throughout the settlement with affection and hospitality."

In my reading and research over the years, I found reference to that fact that probably one of the first "Team, Group or Co-operative Ministries" was that of Brown and Bayne at the time of Brown's Jubilee, 1845. Later the Londonderry Parish or Pastoral Charge was divided into "Upper Londonderry" to include Folly Village, the site of the mother church in the 1770's (later to become Glenholme, 1909), Masstown and Debert. The Churches of the lower section of the Londonderry Parish, avoided using the term "Lower", but identified their churches by community names, Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands etc.

As one who did a major Research Project for The United Church of Canada in 1969-1970, on

the value of "Group or Co-operative Ministries" by which I earned a Master of Theology Degree from Pine Hill Divinity Hall (1972) in which the focus of study of was the potentials of new forms for Ministry for the churches of West Colchester County, from Debert to Five Islands. The beginnings of a "group ministry" or "larger parish" for the area was formed in the Fall of 1968 on an experimental (pilot) basis, testing various models, formats and projects in working as a Co-operative Ministry for the West Colchester Area and including United, and Baptist Churches of the area. A draft "Constitution of the West Colchester Group Ministry" was worked on and distributed; Truro Presbytery and Maritime Conference provided some consulting services, and The Experimental Projects Committee of the General Council of The United Church provided financial resources for the research. I was appointed director of the research project. In September 1969 the Great Village Pastoral Charge informed Truro Presbytery of their decision not to participate in the Group Ministry experiment. With the withdrawal of the Great Village churches, center of the larger area for ministry in West Colchester, it did not seem practical to continue or implement the group or Co-operative parish concept for West Colchester Area. I was encouraged by Presbytery and Conference to continue, complete and publish the findings of the Research Project, which was completed in 1972. Printed copies were circulated to the United Churches of the area and throughout Canada in 1972: "The Functional Community and Parish Organization". 216 pages, plus appendix of resource papers.

It is sad for me, now, to see the church building, St. James, of Great Village, for sale, without adequate

The Shoreline Journal

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Frieze & Roy General Store

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support base to maintain or occupy the building. There are other churches in the area, facing the same challenges today. Maybe our Group Ministry experimental project of 1968-1969, was a dream and a need too early in time to be recognized as a means of maintaining community churches and ministries of West Colchester area. We are probably now too weak in resources of income and people support, to make positive changes in providing active ministries in the area. Too bad!

Sincerely  
Rev. Lester Settle, Glenholme, NS

## It has to be SPOTLESS to Get Top Dollar

By Betty Ann DeWitt

"Sun out, tide in" she said to me, as we looked around outside of her old cottage. "I only want you to show this cottage with the Sun out and tide full in. That's when it is at its best and someone will fall in love with it". I had to agree with that one. When you are marketing your property, flaunt its best assets.

Sellers, the most important thing you can do is make your home as clean as you can possibly make it. Whether you own a mansion or a humble abode it has to be spotless if you want it to sell for top dollar. Just as you would not go to a job interview in dirty, messy clothing, don't send your house to its interview this way.

The first impression is key. The minute you open the door

what can you smell? Does it smell clean? Does it smell like smoke, pets, old carpet? We're all used to our own smells and may not notice the bad. Get someone you trust to tell you the truth, to open the door and take a whiff. If it doesn't smell clean and fresh, you need to remedy that. Remove an odour holding carpet, wash pet beds, and give it a good airing to get rid of cooking smells. Don't spray air freshener thinking it will mask anything. People will merely think you are trying to hide something. That suspicion will follow the rest of the showing. You might not have anything fancy in your home but if it smells and feels clean the first impression will be positive. The viewer will feel comfortable the home has been loved and cared for.

The places you think they will never look trust me they will look. So clean the toilets and make sure the closets and cupboards are neat. You might think it is no one's business what's in there, and it isn't, but if they look in and see your stuff fits nicely with some room to spare they will imagine their stuff will also fit. If those storage spaces look like a small nuclear attack happened, the impression will be there is not enough storage room in the home for them.

De-clutter your house. Pack away everything you won't need for the next few months, put in boxes, store neatly in a corner of the basement. Remove all the personal photos and knick knacks from tables, dressers and kitchen counters.

Clear all medications, cosmetics or things you use daily off sinks, counters and dressers. Store in drawers out of sight. It might be a bit inconvenient for you, but the pay-off is great.

Space, space, and more space is what you are trying to convey. Put a fresh coat of white or light paint where you can (dark walls make spaces look small); clean all windows to a gleam. Make sure floors are spotless. Get ready to sell your home for the top price in its market range. Bake some homemade bread for the enticing smell? Sure, if you like, but leave a loaf out with your Realtors® name on it.

Until next time I wish you, "Sun out, tide in."

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