

# REES' Pieces

## Are we Brave Enough?

One has to wonder what the world is coming to and what will happen next. As Nova Scotians we all like to talk about the weather and to relish in doing things as they've always been done in the past.

In November and December we were bragging the rest of the winter we were going to be bragging we had moved closer to Florida, then things switched and we had a winter like nothing we can remember. Once the snow started, it seemed like it would not stop. In one of the several storms in March, Halifax received over 9 cm of snow per hour. In relishing the past, here we are at the beginning of April and in many places, if we walked the snow banks, we'd be above the telephone lines, which I can remember from the days of my youth in Northwestern New Brunswick.

Life is full of contradictions. Global warming is among us and initially we thought we'd live in a much warmer climate, but not necessarily so. Scientists are now telling us, we are in for more drastic weather changes than in the past.

According to some, we will experience harsher winters full of more frequent and more intense storms with above average snowfall accumulation and then a hotter drier summer. If that is the case the wider swing of the pendulum is also applying to things other than weather.

Take this into consideration. No sooner had the reporters filed their stories and editing was underway with television news clips about Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Premiers McNeil and Gallant trying to make headlines about cutting red tape and working together to eliminate barriers between the provinces to create a more sustainable regional economy, when Canada Bread announces it is closing Ben's Bakery in Halifax throwing 105 people out of work to create 35 new jobs to consolidate operations in New Brunswick and we learn New Brunswick offered \$240,000 in payroll rebates to create the new jobs. Opportunities New Brunswick is an organization charged to do the same for NB that Nova Scotia Business Inc is supposed to do for our fair province. Stephen Lund, the former head of NS Business Inc is now heading up Opportunities New Brunswick after he vacated his economic development position in Bermuda.

Give a bit of thought to this one. A few years ago Harper's Conservatives made changes to how and what amount of monies was to be paid to veterans who had been seriously injured in the line of duty. Veterans cried foul saying the lump sum payment would not work, but the Conservatives forged ahead and implemented a new program.

Now the pendulum is swinging the other way. Word has it that by the time you are reading this the same Harper Conservatives are coming up with new program, which will provide additional substantial lump sum payments, again, to those most seriously impacted with major injuries. Speculation has it these new lump sum payments could be as high as \$70,000 for the severest of cases.

We've just started to soften our position; we need to accept change and to accelerate how fast we can change things. In years gone by, it seemed to take forever for any level of government to make substantial changes. Probably because those we elected were timid and made changes slowly, not because it was best for the economy, but best for their own careers by getting re-elected again.

If the previous revised program to take care of our veterans was SO GOOD, why does it need to be changed so quickly? Might it be because veterans and their families were correct when they stated the new program would not work and an election is months away.

Could these two examples be part of the reason, we the electorate are cynical? Is there any validity to the reasoning politicians are opportunists and do things only when it is beneficial to them? Could we the electorate be guilty of "taking bribes"?

When will we develop a backbone and demand politicians of all political stripes implement programs which are good for the economy, rather than convenient for "their" careers?

Are we brave enough to demand politicians mend their ways instead of themselves and their party?

Maurice

# Laura Smith to Play Parrsboro - April 18

By Patricia Burke

The Parrsboro Band Assoc. is pleased to announce their Winter/ Spring Concert Series at the hall in Parrsboro. Stan Carew and John Campbell/John started the series off on Sun. March 8.

On Sat. April 18 at 8 pm Laura Smith will take to the stage. Laura has won 2 ECMA's and 2 Juno nominations. In Laura Smith's music real emotions ebb and flow.

On Friday May 15, 2015 Matt Minglewood will perform at 8 pm. Matt is a musical hybrid with one foot steeped in musical

roots of the blues and country and the other knee deep in rock.

Finishing off this series will be Joan Kennedy on Fri. June 12, 2015 at 8 pm. Joans love of music started at a very young age when the family would gather around the kitchen table and sing when their father returned home from work.

Tickets are \$20 each until 3 pm the day of the concert and then they increase to \$25. For more information on these musicians and everything that is happening at the hall go to [www.the-hall.ca](http://www.the-hall.ca)

## Farmers Encouraged to Adopt Innovative Practices

Nova Scotia farmers are encouraged to apply for innovation support through \$1.2-million proposal-based programs through the innovation part of Growing Forward 2 in Nova Scotia. The innovation theme of Growing Forward 2 supports and promotes market-oriented, consumer-driven initiatives which will improve the competitiveness and profitability of Nova Scotia's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based product sector.

The five-year framework agreement for agriculture is cost-shared 60-40 between the federal and provincial governments. Funding is available under research acceleration, farm innovation, and agri-products innovation and commercialization.

More details on the program and applications are available at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/innovation/>

## Truro UCW to Meet in Oxford May 5th

By Christine Urquhart

Truro Presbyterial UCW will be holding their Spring Rally on May 5th in Oxford. Programs will include The Environment, Feral Cats and Cuban Dances. There will be a Book Display so if you are looking for any special book, contact Noreen Stark 902-895-1257.

Bring a bag lunch, lug a mug, and plan to have a great time! Please keep in mind Truro Presbyterial UCW are

hosting Biennial in 2016 and they are looking for items for the Ditty Bags.

If your UCW are making items please let Noreen Stark know what you are making and how many you are making. They plan to have 100 Ditty Bags so need many items to put into them.

## Introducing...The Blue Marble Initiative

By Linda Harrington

Join us for a special celebration of Earth Day 2015, when West Colchester Consolidated students will launch the first Blue Marble Initiative.

The Blue Marble is based on the Earth as seen from space, but, as we are becoming increasingly aware, it is facing many environmental challenges. Global warming, species at risk, rising sea levels are approaching crisis levels, and actions must be taken to slow and even reverse these trends.

The Blue Marble Initiative aims at raising hope in the midst of these issues. Students from Grades P-6 at WCCS will have the opportunity to visit many interactive displays, aimed at increasing their awareness of their place in the natural global community.

Students may visit displays from many organizations which focus on wildlife and habitat, find Hope Spots near home and in our province, and participate in creative activities, all aligned with learning outcomes in Science.

Spearheaded by Dr. Karen Ewing and teachers, Mrs. Sherry Patriquin and Mrs. Sybil Flemming, this event is intended to foster a spirit of awareness, action and hope for the future.

We hope to see you on April 22, 2015 at the gymnasium of West Colchester Consolidated as we share ideas and commitment in an environment of learning and adventure. Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. No admission, but supplies and donations in aid of Colchester SPCA will be accepted.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Are you 90 or 90+?

The Shoreline Journal is planning its 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday celebration for all current and former residents in our coverage area, who will be celebrating their 90<sup>TH</sup> or 90+ birthday this year.

In order to complete our plans we need to know who in our area fits into this category. So that we do not miss anyone, we are asking relatives or friends to register these special residents with us.

Simply sent the person's name, birthdate, and contact coordinates. Deadline for registering is April 5, 2015.

The party will be held at Economy Recreation Centre on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Send details to:  
Maurice Rees, Publisher



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PH: 902-647-2968, or

E-mail: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

## The Shoreline Journal

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If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:

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