



Cathrine Yuill, Advancement Department, Dal AC chats with MP, Bill Casey at Chamber of Commerce luncheon. (Rees Photo)



Alec Stevenson, President Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce welcomes Bill Casey, MP to chamber luncheon. (Rees Photo)

Bill Casey Speaker at Chamber Luncheon

By Maurice Rees

If your organization is looking for a speaker who forgets to bring their prepared speech but delivers a tremendous informative talk, then you should contact Bill Casey, MP, Cumberland-Colchester. That's exactly what happened on February 22nd, when Casey was guest speaker at a Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Casey who was first elected as an MP in 1988 indicated he has always had a close relationship with the chamber partially because the first letter he received following his election 30 years ago was from Bob Baxter, who was the chamber's executive director at the time.

Casey's tenure has involved six prime ministers and currently as chair of the Health Committee he had intensive involvement in Assisted Dying Canada-wide hearings and development of legislation, which he termed as very controversial yet very successful legislation ever introduced.

His committee has also been involved in 99 meetings regarding legalizing Cannabis, and although many maintain Cannabis is not healthy and not good his committee was informed medical use has been most helpful in instances of pain relief.

Speaking about national PharmaCare program revelations, to date, indicate potential savings in the range of \$7-Billion. He cited one of the problems to develop a plan is there are currently 100's of plans across Canada, and finding ways to bring all of them into a plan is complicated and takes a lot of negotiations.

Two files which Casey continues to work hard on include restoration of the Amourary building in Amherst, which was very important during the two World Wars. His other passion is to ensure the RCMP call centre in Truro is not moved to Halifax, because there is already one there and he believes two similar facilities should be located in different communities should there be catastrophic events knocking out the communication systems.

As part of the relocation of the Truro facility, Millbrook First Nation has developed a plan to use the former Convergys building as a stand-alone facility and there the Minister involved has voiced approval for the site, although decisions are up to the RCMP.

Casey's largest concern is the dangers to Nova Scotia from climate change with rising sea levels and how it could affect transportation and communication links across the

Tantramar Marsh. Currently on high tides there is very little free-board and the Trans-Canada, railroad, communications and pipeline could be in danger if corrective action is not taken soon.

He's concerned about the reputation of the Port of Halifax, which because of its location is able to get containers delivered in Chicago one day earlier than if containers were delivered to ports along the New England seaboard. A do-nothing approach could have serious negative effects on the region's economy.

He's worried if all levels of government don't move quickly to avoid possible disruption of services of isolating Nova Scotia and Newfoundland from the remainder of Canada the shipping community might start to pressure ports along the eastern USA to expand and deepen facilities to handle containers and bypass Halifax.

Speaking positively about the region's assets, Casey views the Bay of Fundy as the strongest tourism asset. As one of the seven wonders of the world, it will play a significant role in tourism development for years to come. Currently New Brunswick and the State of Maine are working together to develop a tourism brand of "2 nations one vacation". He'd

like to see Tourism NS chip into the pot to get involved because of the ferry link from Yarmouth to Portland would be ideal encouraging tourists to travel the circular route through New Brunswick, the length of Nova Scotia and utilize the Yarmouth-Portland ferry service as an entry or exit point.

With the Bay of Fundy gaining prominence as a global tourism attraction Casey referred to Bay of Fundy Working Group, a collection of tourism operators and funders, which has recently held meetings to explore and initiate possibilities.

Locally, the volunteer group, Cliffs of Fundy Aspiring GeoPark project is developing an application to join the elite global GeoPark network which when approved would immediately raise the profile of the area with tremendous benefits for growth of the tourism sector.

Casey mentioned another interesting initiative gaining traction, but far from being developed, is the East Coast Greenway Trail which will connect 15 states, 450 cities and towns, and 3,000 miles of people-powered trails from Maine to Florida - the country's longest biking and walking route. Casey feels the Maritime Provinces should tap into this synergy. More information can be found at: <https://www.greenway.org/>

Two Nations, One Land Beyond Borders

By Maurice Rees

With over 300-million residents in the United States, New Brunswick on the east and British Columbia on the Pacific the provinces have been pro-active to partner with neighbouring states to develop "two nations vacation packages" and promotional materials. The concept promotes in the Two Nation Vacation part of the world anthems, customs and coastlines can't be separated by a border.

Bill Casey, MP, Cumberland-Colchester is urging Nova Scotia, particularly organizations and tourism operators in communities touching the Bay of Fundy to consider the benefits. He sees promoting the Bay of Fundy as part of a "two nation vacation" concept as the easiest way to grow tourism throughout the province, particularly along the world's highest tides.

Whether east or west coasts other attributes include neighbouring areas sharing a

slower pace of life along a rugged coastline where breathtaking beauty lives around every bend; speak the same language and share a unique heritage. To entice people who reside far away from the "two nations areas" promotion included experiencing colourful people, delicious recipes and warm hospitality.

New Brunswick has partnered with the State of Maine each promoting awe-inspiring nature, rich culture, unforgettable experiences plus the world's highest tides. With over 160-billion tonnes of water pouring into the Bay of Fundy, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, twice a day to form the world's highest tides, it's an attraction not offered anywhere else in the world.

Bill Casey, MP, Cumberland-Colchester would like to see Nova Scotia sitting at the same table as Maine and New Brunswick to permit visitors to continue their "Two Nation vacation" with exploration of

the Bay of Fundy by visiting Nova Scotia from the Amherst area to Yarmouth using the Yarmouth-Portland ferry service as either an entry or exit point to complete exploration of the Bay of Fundy.

The world's highest tides, the largest whirlpool in the western hemisphere, plus the first sunrise to hit America awesome outdoor adventures can include walking the ocean floor exploring a billion years of geological history with plenty of fossils in many areas particularly along the coastline in the Parrsboro area, which includes the Fundy Geological Museum along with Burntcoat Head Park as the site of the highest recorded tides in the world.

Whale watching, lighthouse tours, seafood and plenty of wildlife are additional lures of interest to millions of travelers. Even though Cape Breton's Cabot Trail is a lure all to itself, coastal communities along the Bay of Fundy offer paved highway

hugging coastal cliffs with ample opportunity for hiking or mountain biking along numerous trails with even more coming on-stream all the time.

On the west coast some tour operators are offering three and four day vacations which include San Francisco, plus Victoria and Vancouver, BC.

Casey feels participating in the "Two Nation Vacation" concept with Maine and New Brunswick is an excellent way to grow tourism in Nova Scotia, and also give the visitors opportunity for a complete circular tour around the Bay of Fundy.



Chamber members and guests were treated to a wonderful buffet put on by the Best Western Glengarry during the annual Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Upcoming Events at Victoria Hall

By Wendy Cox

Several events will be held at Victoria Hall, Bass River this spring and summer. On April 14th, the hall committee will hold a bottle drive. Drop your bottles off at hall that morning or contact 902-890-9675 to arrange pickup. Inclement weather date is April 21.

On Friday, May 11 at 7pm the hall will host Graham Nichols and Jerry Legere from Ontario. These talented folk/roots country musicians are

excited to play at Victoria Hall on their Maritime tour.

Matt Minglewood will be in concert at the hall on Sunday, June 17 starting at 2pm. The committee is excited to have Matt Minglewood for a Father's Day Concert.

Keep in mind The Secrets will be around in July to entertain us. Watch for posters and Facebook posts about these events. Remember if you want to rent the hall contact Wendy at the store.



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