

# REES' Pieces

## \$120-Million will Certainly Help

Premier McNeil's March 15th announcement of \$120-Million gleaned from offshore gas royalties to be used to solve problems related to lack of high speed internet service around the province is definitely good news, providing achievable solutions are sought.

It's very understandable why some people will be skeptical. Since the original massive roll-out was announced with mega-\$\$\$s, there has been announcement after announcement problems would be solved.

Not only were subsequent mega-dollars announced, a lot of time and expense evolved for consulting studies with minor results. Might it have been more helpful if the message to residents, pleading for acceptable high speed internet service in rural areas, might have asked for their input and to find ways to get local community groups and municipalities involved in solution development and financing?

The lack of reliable, fast rural internet service has not gone unnoticed. The federal government seemed to lead the way announcing major funding for solutions. Real Estate agents have constantly pointed to problems selling rural property which did not have reliable service. In fact, it's so bad many agents will not list a property unless acceptable, by today's standards, there is existing internet service.

Reliable fast internet is essential for rural businesses to be competitive and students to be on equal footing with colleagues in urban areas, if they are to succeed scholastically. Then and only then is there a hope any level of government can realistically and economically rebuild the rural economy.

In previous decades, migration to urban areas was perceived because of the bright lights and better job opportunities. Recently, the reason seems to have switched to the lack of acceptable or desired internet service, whether for personal or business use.

At a recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) board of directors meeting, it was revealed when high speed rural internet service is achieved, rural areas will benefit from an increase of approximately 7% population growth.

An important role of any level of government should not be confined to implement, but to create the environment to ensure it happens. All too often government throws a lot of money at something, only to have it fail or the outcomes were far less than the original hype.

Across Canada or around the world the most successful Community Economic Development (CED) initiatives have occurred when grassroots driven or they are significantly involved. Provincially, a good example is New Dawn Enterprises in Cape Breton. They have decades of success and are still hard at it delivering achievable results.

It will not be acceptable for Nova Scotians to sit back and assume "We'll get high speed internet service soon. The government is going to make it happen". That is what happened in the past and look where we are, at least a decade behind urban areas.

If you live in rural Nova Scotia and need or want high speed internet service it is incumbent upon you to get involved. I don't mean just calling local elected representatives to deliver the message, "Make it happen soon".

No, you have to be willing to invest some time and energy to develop the appropriate plan for your community. Call your local elected and say, "What can I do to help make it happen? What can our community do to help?"

For a rundown of community driven success take a look at New Dawn Enterprises, Sydney, or the actions taken by County of Annapolis council in holding 65 community meetings, developing a plan and then agreeing to borrow \$14.8-Million of municipal funds to drive a county-wide high speed internet program. Since they are the first, it has taken about a year longer to finalize a contract, but it's expected to be signed soon with installation completed in about 300 days.

Colchester and Cumberland councils should meet to develop a two county initiative and how to get grassroots involved in the beginning.

I've talked to Bill Casey, Cumberland-Colchester, MP and he's onside and hopes planning will start soon. All rural residents are encouraged to organize community meetings answering the questions, "What can we do? How can we help?"

Start preparing and organizing now!

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:

Subsequent to March's issue of The Shoreline Journal (the Letter to the Editor & another article by Maurice Rees), please find herewith my comments.

The Mining Industry is and has been a driving Force behind our Canadian Economy. As far as the claim that Mining Exploration would "bring an end to economic growth" it is a proven fact that not only does Mining provide several high paying jobs directly it also is fact that it takes 6 to 7 supplier type jobs to keep the Mine going for every job at the Mine.

Now to Mr. Maurice's US Gold Mines Spills Report; the real problem here is The United States of America is not, I repeat not CANADA. Here in Canada our Government Strictly Regulates, Monitors & Enforces Laws that protect us. For Example: the Open Pit Coal Mine where I worked for 10 years in Alberta, whose West boundary was Jasper National Park, we were required to have not one but two Environmental Engineers or Technologists to maintain all Policies, which there were many.

I left there prior to the Mine closing, however I still have friends there and those Envi-

ronmentalists were still there 2 years after production had stopped; they were there to put the land, as close as possible, back to the way it was. A few less trees perhaps but a great deal more grass & the animals do not seem to mind. No buildings, no railroad, no waste pond ...nothing but open spaces.

And you say who pays for it all; before anything is disturbed The Company must start making deposits of money to the Government to be able to do the required work.

Now who am I: K. David Atkinson, B.Eng., M.Eng., P. Eng. (retired), MINING Expertise: Mineral Benefication

Process Engineering.

Here is the point; do you do diligence prior to granting any license to proceed. Have them deposit funds in case of any problems & make sure they do the job right. My education proves to me that ...IT IS POSSIBLE TO MINE WITHOUT DESTROYING ANYTHING.

You hereby have my permission to publish my comments; and hope you will. The people need to know that Mining is not a bad thing; only bad operators of Mines.

Sincerely,  
Dave Atkinson

Dear Editor:

Here it is spring and Nova Scotia bureaucrats are busy feathering their nests. The government has passed Bill 72 (Education Reform) on its own initiative with no consultation with the people who will be most impacted by it. The very slim conduit the people had to the machinations of school board administrators and the department of education - duly elected school board members - has been eliminated.

In the second half of the 20th century, "education" morphed into something that would not be recognized by the people who worked towards a free schooling for every child as an investment in the future. "Education" became a business to

be run with an eye to the bottom line. The 21st century is proving to be even worse with public participation in the education of our children disappearing. What a sorry end for a democratic dream.

I am an old woman who spent her working life in rural elementary school classrooms during the second half of the 20th century and experienced first hand the changes thrust upon us. By the time I retired, changes had made our educational system unrecognizable. I thought I had seen everything. Then came the 2000s! It seemed I hadn't seen everything after all. With constant closing and amalgamations of schools and mergers of school boards the rift between actual teaching and education over-

sight and planning grew. Now it seems teaching and administration are two entities who cannot work together as their aims are too different.

Recent governments in their wisdom do not listen to the people who know what actual schooling today is like (teachers and parents), preferring instead to heed administrators who deal in theories, charts and diagrams as opposed to human beings and who believe shuffling the components of their organization around will cure all ills. After all, job titles, ideas and papers are easier and cleaner to shuffle around than children.

Sincerely  
Carol Hyslop, Wentworth

## PHOTO FEATURE

The 34<sup>th</sup> Truro Sport Heritage Awards were presented in a gala event held at the Best Western Glengarry. Host Bruce Rainnie, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame and former host of the CBC News emceed the event, Sunday, March 4th, 2018.



The Bible Hill Huskies soccer team took home the honours when Colchester's Mayor Christine Blair presented them with the outstanding junior team award. Above first row are: Sophia Green, Paige Browne, Lauren Higgins, Mayor Christine Blair, Any Morgan and Tatyanna Turner. Second row: Makenna Bowser, Emma Roberts, Marissa Archibald, Anna Varga, Olive Desmond, Olivia Krzywonos and Raj Makkar.

### Bible Hill Junior High Girls Soccer Team

The Huskies went undefeated in regular play, capturing both the District and Regional NSSAF banners with the latter being the highest attainable accomplishment in NSSAF Junior High/Middle School Championships. While winning the South Colchester Academy Tournament, the Huskies continued their strong program with sportsmanship and grace as they went on to be the best in the region! Congratulations to the Bible Hill Junior High Girls Soccer Team for being nominated for the 2017 Outstanding Junior High School Team.

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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MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop
- NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:**  
Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:  
Bass River Consolidated;  
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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