

REES' Pieces

Never before, never again

They say there are two things in life we can be sure about: death and taxes. Now we can add to the list – Covid-19. We have not seen anything like winter 2020 and we hope never to experience it again.

Another thing we learned, President Trump will never make the grade as a fortune teller. In a press conference the week of March 20th, he indicated Covid-19 would be over soon as he was hoping churches would be full for Easter Sunday.

Not sure why he projects things will be solved soon, other than he sees the virus having a negative impact on his re-election aspirations. For about three years he banked his re-election on a strong economy and was doing everything possible to get the stock market climbing higher.

As to the possible causes of Covid-19, Facebook and other social media platforms have been ripe with rumours and speculations. None of which are true, but rumours keep growing. Some have speculated it was a form of germ warfare testing gone array.

When I first hear the rumour of germ warfare, I thought about one of my favourite movies, a 2 hour 11 minute 1971 sci-fi thriller, *Andromeda Strain*. It's based on a satellite crashing near a small Arizona town, bringing with it a deadly alien virus. This science fiction thriller based on Michael Crichton's novel.

I am not suggesting Covid-19 is germ warfare, but there is a semblance of similarity about the possible outcome, not the source, if Covid-19 is not contained. If you are self isolating and want to watch a movie, this will cause you to really think.

You will be encouraging others to self isolate as it seems to be the only way we are going to beat it and bring life back towards what we used to think as normal.

I've been following Covid-19 coverage on CNN and listening to CBC radio at 12 noon and again at 3:00 pm. There are three public officials who have given the best information possible: New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Stephen McNeil. All three deliver the hard cold facts, don't sugar coat anything, but do so with a very calming, believable method of delivery.

If we listen to their concerns, try to understand what they are saying and heed their instructions and requests, we will exit this sad state of affairs much quicker and with less carnage in life and economic reality.

It is unfortunate, because we will spend a lifetime paying the bills, but it is comforting to hear governments sparing no expense in delivering programs to soften the economic blow to citizens. Never has there been a hint about "this is costing too much". But rather they say, "we will do whatever it takes". I was born after WWII, but I have never seen governments move as quickly as these three leaders get their staff mobilized.

As forthcoming as they have been it is the ones they are trying to help whom we must be concerned about. Thousands of employees whose paycheques suddenly evaporated; or single parents designated as "essential" workers and don't have childcare and the list goes on. The economy has been turned on its head and until middle of April will be the hardest money-wise, until cheques start rolling. We must keep in contact with these people and if there is something they need we must step forward to help.

Congratulations to the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade and their colleagues in Stewiacke who are offering a free pick up and delivery service for those who are confined or don't wish to go outside for prescriptions, groceries or other necessities.

Not sure of the process in Stewiacke, but Clair Peers from OBF has provided the Shoreline Journal with two news articles and a picture of the process for OBF to pickup and deliver. Thanks to Laurie Jennings and his staff, at Masstown Market, who assemble and pack the orders for OBF volunteers to deliver.

In times like this it is great to live in a rural area, because unbeknown to us, somebody has our back. Keep safe and six feet away from others.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Honourable Bill Blair,
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Brenda Lucki,
Commissioner of the RCMP,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Minister Blair and Commissioner Lucki

(NOTE: The following letter along with three attachments were emailed by former Member of Parliament, Bill Casey, on March 6, 2020, as he continues his battle to not permit the RCMP to close its communications centre in Truro and relocate it to HRM as part of the provincial headquarters complex.)

Attached are three news articles regarding the earthquakes that hit Dartmouth, Nova Scotia this week. The first earthquake was described as an "explosion" that "sent people scrambling". 238 residents reported this event to Earthquakes Canada. 911 calls were reported and emergency vehicles were dispatched to the scene. After shocks were reported for two days.

You will note in the media images attached that the epicenter of these earthquakes was exactly on the spot where the RCMP is planning to move their Emergency 911 Communication Center. And I mean exactly. Unfortunately, the other major Nova Scotia police communication center is also in the exactly same community that experienced the epicenter of the earthquake.

If there ever was a wake up call about how reckless it is for the RCMP to concentrate the two major Nova Scotia 911 Emergency Communication Centers in one location, this is it. In the future a more significant earthquake could knock out both 911 major Emergency Communication Centers in Dartmouth. Almost all Nova Scotia emergency communications, and most police, fire, and

To all residents:

A word of hope from Rev. Larry Tirrell

To the residents of Bass River, I want to assure you of our prayers from the members of Bass River Baptist church.

The last weeks has brought many changes to our world, area, and town. These changes have even affected our small congregation. Our first priority is the safety of our members and others. We are not holding services in our building for the time being. The Bible teaches the church is not the building, but the people.

During these times we need to turn to God, and his Word for comfort, hope, and wisdom. Many people, even yourself feel that God seems far away, distant or out of reach. I want to assure you He is not.

Letter to the Editor

The Colchester Senior Games committee has agreed to postpone the Local Senior Games until possibly, October. It was a difficult decision put the May games on hold. We will notify everyone when we feel it is a good time to proceed. We

will be watching the course of the COVID19 and make our decision as time goes on.

The Village of Bible Hill, County of Colchester and Town of Truro have closed their offices until further notice.

My contact information is: Ph: 902-843-5941, (home); 902-814-6577, (cell) and 902-647-2567, (church), messages are checked every week. Email - larry.tirrell@hotmail.com

May the Lord keep and bless you.

Rev. Larry Tirrell
Bass River Baptist Church

Tina Leger

Churches Facing Tough Decisions

By Maurice Rees

Congregations of the Cobequid Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada need to make a series of very tough decisions. Rev Florence Antle-Brisson is retiring at the end of May which will leave the churches in Bass River, Economy and Five Islands without a full time minister.

A call for a new minister has not been made so during the summer months the three churches will make do with volunteers and leaders from within their congregations.

However, before looking for a new minister, the congregations must face and assess other important matters.

Local leaders within the pastoral charge are asking for input and suggestions about the future including financial viability, the need for three church buildings and a manse.

Interaction with members of the congregations is now hampered with the closure of all churches do to CoVid-19 pandemic. Closure of the churches at this time will slow down face-to-face discussions.

An open house by members of the Cobequid Pastoral Charge was planned for April 25th to honour Rev Florence Antle-Brisson on her forthcoming retirement at the end of May has been cancelled due to CoVid-19.

To go through the assessment process a survey questionnaire has been developed and can be obtained from Carole and Ray Dibbon, Economy, 902-647-2022; Dorothy Carson, Five Islands, 902-254-3759 and Myrna Fishers, Bass River, 902-647-2461.

ambulance dispatching will be lost when they are needed the most.

This RCMP move stems from the fact that the building at 80 Garland Avenue in Dartmouth is too large for the RCMP Headquarters. Much of the empty space has been vacant for seven years, but the RCMP does not want to share the space with any other government department. Treasury Board reports that rent on that building at \$10,498,133.40 per year, including the vacant space...for seven years.

To solve the seven year empty space problem, they are moving the Truro RCMP 911 Emergency Call Center to 80 Garland Avenue in order to help fill some of the vacant area.

It is time now to apply common sense and make the safety of all Nova Scotians the priority. The RCMP should call a halt to this move and maintain geographic separation between the two largest communication centers in Nova Scotia.

Every continuity manual referred to me by the Toronto Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, the National Emergency Number Association and the National Fire Protection Association specify that the number one continuity safety issue for emergency preparedness is "geographic separation" and "redundancy in communications".

This move to concentrate the two major 911 Emergency Communication Centers in one community does exactly the opposite of those rules, and it should stop now.

Thank you,

Bill Casey, Former M.P.
billcasey45@hotmail.com

The Shoreline Journal

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BASS RIVER:

Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:

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MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel

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NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op

Ken's Grocery

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