

REES' Pieces

Summer BBQ Circuit

Traditionally, politicians spend most of their summer going to, participating in, or hosting BBQs to see most of the voters who elected them.

The BBQ Circuit is important for politicians to gauge the electorate's feelings to determine what it will take to make their re-election easier. However, this summer is different. At the federal level Jack Layton is keeping a low profile sticking close to home to rest from or get treatment for prostate cancer. Iggy, commandeered an election style bus, is making a cross Canada trip to establish a closer linkage with voters to demonstrate he can relate to voters and is here to stay. Harper was busy entertaining world leaders at the G-8 and G-20 summits, which stirred up Toronto residents with murmurings of dislike on the chain link fence, traffic detours, congestion and police activities. Canada-wide voters were flabbergasted at the mammoth \$1+-Billion cost. Most felt too much money was spent considering, previous versions in other countries, the costs were in the range of 90% less, coming in at not much more than \$100-million.

Provincially, the Dexter government is in defensive mode due to elimination of funding for the "CAT", which broke the link of Yarmouth being the province's gateway to New England; the MLA expense scandal, which affected all parties and hiking the HST from 13% to 15% when it promised "no tax increases" during their election campaign.

Stephen McNeil's Liberals are trying to get their house in order to demonstrate they are suited to be the next government. The Tories, reeling from being removed from power, are focusing on choosing their next full time leader.

Even though it's summer, the political mood is much different than previous years. The electorate is angry and ready to pounce on all elected officials. The UK has a new government and emergence of the Tea Party in USA demonstrates the depth of the electorate's anger.

Federally, another tempest struck the tea-pot, when it was revealed the 2011 census would not include the long form, which was imposed upon 20% of the population.

Opposition party leaders instantly voiced their disapproval and the electorate had a "ho-hum" response. The matter gained traction with the resignation of Statistics Canada's CEO. Voters took notice, because his resignation was opposite to the governments pronouncements Stats Canada was onboard.

The former Stats Canada CEO waded into the fray by voicing his objection saying reliable data could not be collected under the new regime and not one felony charge had been laid against any individual who refused to complete the "long form".

Mark Carney, Bank of Canada Governor added to the furor with his less than enthusiastic response saying he would keep a close eye on developments and the provinces are up in arms. Government officials defending the change are on the defensive. If body language is any indication, when reporters ask probing questions, there is an air of having something to hide as to the reasons why the changes are necessary.

One has to wonder. Was this brought into the public realm at this time, hoping everyone was interested in BBQ'ing and would not notice, or if the real reason was to deflect attention away from IGGY's cross-Canada tour?

Provincially, dislike continues with growing opposition to changes in forestry practices; presumption the NDP government will permit approval 650,000 tonnes of biomass feedstock to generate electricity in Port Hawkesbury; NS Power indicating a 12% residential and 18% commercial increase for electricity; if government will support \$140+-million for a new convention centre in Halifax; selection of a site for a new jail, when promises had been made to Springhill and Antigonish and let's not forget Halifax has a dysfunctional council, a questionable school board and is going nowhere fast.

PEI has just announced \$17.5-million for a new convention centre to accommodate 3,000 people. Does that mean Halifax's proposed \$140-million centre will accommodate 24,000 convention goers? If the project is so viable, should government inform developers and proponents, if your study forecasting a tax bonanza of \$170-million over 10 years is believable, build it and we will give you the bonanza annually for 10 years?

With all this on their plate, the electorate is fine tuning its sights to remove from power current unwanted representatives. Does this mean it's "open season" on all elected representatives? Voters will decide. Who will be left standing?

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Hi Maurice;

The Great Village Masonic Lodge "Jams" will be taking a Summer break for the rest of July and all of August. It will start back up in September.

We want to Thank you for advertising these Jams for us in support of our communities. We have had a lot of fun

with our old friends and meeting our New friends to enjoy our music with.

We will send you an email with the September dates before the august deadline. Again....Thank you for all your support and getting our Jams advertised for us.

George Linkletter

Summer Job a Daily Treasure Hunt

By Linda Harrington

Working in a museum has its perks! "You get to handle all the cool artifacts that visitors are not allowed to touch," says Gillian Manley.

Gillian and her co-worker Christopher Taylor are summer students employed at the Debert Military Museum. Part of their daily work involves taking inventory, labeling artifacts and updating records relating to the thousands of items currently housed at the Museum. Some might find this tedious work but Gillian and Christopher look at it as more of a daily treasure hunt.

"It is an adventure every time we go into the back storage room," says Gillian. "One day we found a bayonet, another time an officer's helmet. Just the other day a man loaned the Museum an Austrian Officer's Dress Sabre from 1895. It was very exciting to get to handle such an interesting item."

Christopher says even the display cases offer new discoveries, "We all of a sudden notice something that had been missed before. Just the other day I discovered a wooden land mine in one of the cases. In the back room I uncovered a machete which had not been entered in inventory. It was just lying there among some books and papers."

Both summer students enjoy giving tours of the museum and getting to meet people. They enjoy hearing

stories about family connections to the Debert area. "I have always liked hearing about the Military Base and the Debert area in general, since I have lived here all my life," says Christopher. "Military History has always interested me because of my parent's connection."

Visitors to the Museum often have family connections to the Military Base. A recent visitor from England came to the Museum because his father had been stationed here. He found out his father was actually part of the well known Truro Riot, back in 1941.

The summer students have been working on ideas to make tours of the museum more interesting for children. They have developed a scavenger hunt, using maps, for children to follow.

Two new collections have recently been donated to the museum. These have been keeping Chris and Gillian very busy. Each item in the G.I. Smith Collection and Iain Millington Collection will have to be catalogued, assigned numbers and then entered into the inventory system. "This takes a lot of time, with many forms to fill out, listing the items and donor information," says Gillian. "The information is then entered in the computer inventory. We keep a hard copy in the file cabinet, as well." She says people are always amazed at the number of items located at the Museum.

The displays at the Debert

Bass River Heritage Notes

By Hazel Hill

Stella Powers attended the 80th birthday party in Five Islands, for her brother-in-law, Clayton Eagles on July 3rd. Joan and Sid Mitchell, Dartmouth spent the afternoon of July 6th, visiting me. They were spending a few days at Joan's old home place.

Several from here had the salmon, strawberry supper

from St James United Church on July 14th. Trueman and Vivian Layton and Ellen Layton, Halifax attended the supper. I enjoyed a visit with them in the afternoon.

We extend our sympathy to the families of the late Jack Peppard, who passed away July 16th, Birthday greetings go out to Kevin Fields, who is celebrating a birthday this month.

Military Museum are always changing, as new items are received. In the coming weeks a WWI water cooled German machine gun will be put on display. The Museum is excited to have received this rare item. "I don't think there is another one anywhere in Canada," says Museum Past President Mike Taylor. "It is a bi-pod, with only two legs, and very unique."

The Debert Military Museum is located at the former Canadian Forces Station, 35 Acadia Avenue, off Plains Rd. Tours are offered free of charge, although donations are gratefully accepted to support this

non-profit organization. People who have been previously posted at the Military Base may purchase a 'brick' for \$5 and have their name added to a historic wall. There is a well stocked gift shop offering an assortment of souvenirs and tickets are being sold on a beautiful queen size quilt. Draw date for the quilt is Nov. 11th.

A service recognizing Canada's National Peacekeeper's Day will be held at the Museum on August 9th. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to drop by. Gillian Manley and Christopher Taylor will be pleased to give you a guided tour.



Donations to the Debert Military Museum come in all shapes and sizes, including this fully dressed mannequin. Summer students Christopher Taylor (left) and Gillian Manley are enjoying their summer job at the museum as they get to 'hands on' explore the rich military history of Debert. (Harrington Photo)

Great Village Community Association

Bringing A Community Together By Building Ideas
By Amanda Adams

We've been busy at the Great Village Community Centre as the inside received a much needed and appreciated face lift. It is now freshly painted, organized and ready for the summer. We now have running water so feel free to drop in for one of our free programs we have scheduled.

Tuesdays we have tea and coffee time from 1:00 to 3:00, and all are welcome. Wednesdays there is a tot and parents time from 9:30-11:00. All tots under 5 and their caregivers are welcome. Thursdays are for the tweens and teens of the community with Teen Time from 1:00-4:00. Everybody

over 10 years is welcome.

Fridays from 12:00-4:00 the Centre is open for computer classes. Later Friday evening at 6:30 the Community Association is hosting Family Movie Night at the St. James United Church. Admission is by donation with canteen services available.

On August 21st, 2010 we will be celebrating the Wild Blueberry Festival at the St. James United Church with a family fun day, filled with activities for all ages. Beginning at 1:30 the sound of Bag Pipes will lure you into the lower level of the church where we will be serving dessert and tea while out on the green, lots of activities for the kids will be taking place. Bubble gum blowing contest, cup cake walk,

Fear Factor challenges, soccer kick, Frisbee toss and a blueberry guess just to name a few, lots of prizes to be won.

Across the road at the Legion, community groups and businesses will have displays set up representing the diversity in our community. A 50/50 draw, silent auction and ice cream/chocolate bar bingo will also be taking place at the Legion. At 4:00, Action Laser Tag will have a challenge set up for a small fee see how good your laser skills are and challenge your friends. Also taking place at 4:00 will be the BBQ and Live entertainment, music by Country Transit.

The Community Ball Field rejuvenation is well underway

with a lot of hard work and dedication of the volunteers. A ball tournament is scheduled for the long weekend in Sept. So get some friends together and contact Heather @668-2501 to register your team. Canteen services will be available.

The Great Village Community Association is selling blueberries (fresh or frozen) for \$14.00 for 5lbs. Orders can be submitted by contacting Heather at 668-2501. We are also selling Regal once again so if you wish to receive a recent catalogue you can email us at greatvillagelearningnetwork@gmail.com and we will get one out to you. You can also drop by the centre when we are open which is Monday by chance, Tuesday 10-4, Wednesday 9-3, Thursday 11:00-5:00 and Friday 12:00-4:00.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) 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.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • **ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION:** Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • **ALL PARTS OF NS:** \$26.00 plus HST = \$29.90

ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$28.00, plus HST = \$32.20 • **USA SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$40.00

HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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