

Truro Chamber Conducts Summer Meetings with MLA's

By Maurice Rees

The Truro and District Chamber of Commerce has embarked on a series of meetings with local elected officials. In early July it was Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North and on July 24th Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley MLA, Gary Burrill and Truro-Bible Hill MLA, Lenore Zann meeting with the Chamber's President, Don Hay and Executive Director, Tim Tucker.

"It's important to keep the lines of communication open," says TDCoC President Don Hay. "We're very grateful to Ms. Casey for taking the time to listen to issues that we

have heard from our members over the last several months. Karen also offered her own insights on these issues, which we very much appreciate."

In the meeting with Casey, several issues were discussed, including increasing power rates and concern surrounding the agreement to get the NewPage plant in Port Hawkesbury back up and running.

"While we hate to see businesses in any part of the province close their doors, we are fearful that any agreement to keep this plant, or others, open will be paid for by smaller businesses and consumers,"

explains Hay. "Neither have the ability to negotiate power agreements, which also raises the issue of fairness."

"If Nova Scotia Power believes they need to give a break to this new company then let them make up the lost revenue by dipping into their profits," says Casey. "It is Nova Scotia taxpayers that need and deserve the break on their monthly power bills."

Others issues discussed in the meeting with Casey include worker's compensation rates and the duration of claims, both of which are among the highest in the country in Nova Scotia, cuts to the education system and the impact on employers, as well as opportunities and challenges in the Debert Industrial Park.

The Truro and District Chamber of Commerce continued its plan to meet with all local MLAs and the MP over the course of the summer to advance business issues by meeting with MLA's Burrill and Zann on the 24th.

TDCoC President Don Hay says the topics discussed were similar to those talked about during a meeting with Colchester North MLA Karen Casey last week. They include the worker's compensation claims process in Nova Scotia, opportunities and challenges

at the area's industrial parks and, of course, increasing power rates and their impact on employers and employees.

Also discussed at the meeting were the new Employment Insurance regulations and their potential impact on the region, the current HST rate in Nova Scotia and regional economic development. "We appreciate the

feedback we've heard from all three MLAs on the power rate issue and we recognize there is no easy solution. Everything has its advantages and disadvantages," says Hay.

President Hay says, "Our last meeting for the summer will be with Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong in mid-August."



July 9th a sad chapter in Parrsboro when what was once Berry's Restaurant was demolished. In the family since the 40's when it started as a coal and ice delivery business, and sharpened skates for the many who skated on the Aboiteau. Ravished by fire in 2010 and vandalism, it's time had come, and gone. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



The large frog in back was enjoying a solitude moment on the log, when company 'plopped' in unexpectedly. (Harrington Photo)

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| Features at the 2012 EX: | Ticket Prices |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Horse Pulls | Admission: |
| Standard bred horse races | Adults - \$8 |
| Rodeo | 9-14 - \$4 |
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| Little Ray's Reptiles of the World | Week Pass - \$25 |
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