

## A note from the Publisher

By Maurice Rees

Some Colchester residents who have felt marginalized or mistreated over the years might be rejoicing Doug MacInnes has resigned claiming 'racist' remarks as his reason to vacate his council seat. I am not saying those who are alleged to have made certain comments are guilty or the allegations are true. I am not taking sides.

I am a white Caucasian, whose father and family emigrated from Wales to New Brunswick in 1926. My mother, with Scottish ancestry was born in Dow Settlement, New Brunswick in 1927. As a result I have never faced personal racism, and hope I have never uttered or thought a racist word.

In a conversation with Mayor Christine Blair, I suggested anything negative also has a positive side. Even though Colchester is blemished there is a positive side, so let's fine it. Maybe it's as simple as recognizing the past, but working together to go forward on all things positive.

I commented to Mayor Blair, Yes, it is a difficult time, but regardless of whether the alleged comments are true or not, the situation is out in the open. Maybe some who have felt oppressed or slighted, or their sympathizers will grab onto this and try to make the most out of it. But others with an inclusive attitude would be willing to help implement positivity. If everyone works together, positive things will evolve.

True or false, the allegations are out in the open and need to be dealt with. If these situations have been a "festering boil" it has now come to a head. Let's look at how to "clean it up and move forward".

I have had 54+ years in the publishing sector and I've seen and hear a lot, although I will admit I have never been involved in a "racism" situation like this, but common sense must prevail.

It might take a while to work through it, but the current council will be judged not on what has gone on in the past, but how they handle this situation and move forward. Mayor Blair and I talked for over an hour on the morning of July 21st and here are some of the comments I passed along to her:

- She and council must stand up and take the heat ... face the people. Talk with them truthfully. If you don't know the answer, say "so" but assure them you will get the answer, get back to them and then make sure the response is made public.
- There may be a large crowd and possibly TV cameras at council's August 2nd meeting. If an "in-camera" meeting is required fine, but make sure it's followed by full disclosure in the public meeting which follows.
- Although the Municipal Governance Act (MGA) does not permit council to remove a councillor actions can be taken against offenders. (Think about Amherst last fall). Council can ensure a "Code of Conduct" is implemented soon, which will help with public opinion.
- If council does not bring in a "Code of Conduct" and demonstrate inclusiveness in going forward the road ahead will be difficult. The public will be harsh and will demand firm action.
- If the public forms the opinion transparency is lacking, they'll make life difficult.
- It might be painful, but "now" is the time to stand up and let the public know council wants to move forward in a positive "everyone is included" way.
- Make sure you have an open meeting. At the end of the meeting, without anyone leaving hold a "press conference".
- Council has the opportunity to turn this negative into something positive, and it will take the sincerest efforts of everyone.
- In summary, this is not about the past. It's there and it's history. This council will determine Colchester's future.
- The public has a large responsibility in this matter too. If council demonstrates it is willing to go forward in a positive way, the public must fall in line and work with councillors and municipal staff to implement positive actions.
- Mayor Blair will be judged on how she is able to navigate council through this tough time and interface with others throughout the county.

Maurice Rees  
Publisher

## Lafarge Approved to Burn Used Tires

By Maurice Rees

Lafarge Canada has been given approval for a one year pilot project to burn used tires as a low carbon fuel for one of its kilns in Brookfield, Colchester Co. "My decision is based on the science and evidence associated with this application as well as the public feedback received which helped to shape conditions of the approval," said Mr. Rankin, Minister Department of Environment.

The one-year pilot project approval includes terms and conditions to reduce environmental impacts and protect public health including: limiting tire-derived fuel to 15 per cent of total daily input and no more than 20 tonnes per day; forming a community liaison committee to keep residents informed of the project's status and address their questions and developing a complaints

resolution plan.

Prior to starting the one year pilot, Lafarge must submit plans for a number of activities associated with the pilot project and apply for a temporary industrial approval to operate the pilot project. The required plans include: tire storage and waste management; air dispersion modelling, which is a mathematical simulation of how air pollutants disperse in the atmosphere; continuous monitoring of emissions; stack testing before and after the pilot begins and emergency response if there is a malfunction of the kiln.

**The results of the annual testing will be made public through the community liaison committee. The approval and the terms and conditions can be found at <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/lower-carbon-fuel-tire-derived-fuel.asp>.**

# An INVESTIGATIVE Two Page Report from the Shoreline Journal

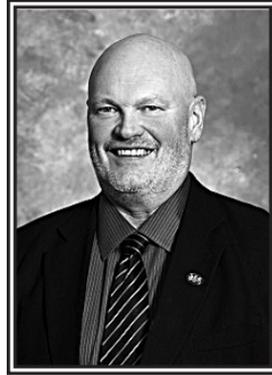
## OP-ED MacInnes - Yes I resigned from Colchester Municipal Council

By Doug MacInnes

This will be my final article in the Shoreline Journal as your County Councillor for district 9. I submitted my resignation to the County Clerk on July 17, 2017. I very much enjoyed my time on council and will miss working with my constituents helping to resolve their municipal issues.

Now for the explanation on why I would take such a drastic measure as to resign from council over any issue which may come council's way. First, I would like to reassure you none of the following reflects on Council as a whole. My decision to resign from council stems from what I consider unacceptable behavior on the part of two individual councillors and are not the values and morals, in my opinion, of the other council members. I also should add I don't believe it is my place to publicly name these individual councillors. In my opinion, this would be the Mayor's or the County CAO responsibility and duty. (Although it is my understanding by the time this article goes to print the local Daily News will have already named the councillors involved)

My first experience with racism on Council took place approximately three years ago during a presentation by a staff member on a study which had been conducted on archeology in Debert. The staff member reported the study had been sent to the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaw



**Doug MacInnes, who has resigned as Colchester District 9 Councillor (CMM)** some time ago but we hadn't received a reply as to date. A remark was made at the Council table and I quote "what do you expect there is no one out there intelligent enough to read it". I never imagined I would ever be repeating this hateful, ignorant comment in public but if someone doesn't bring light to the facts, change will never happen.

With the recent news about the councillor who made the above comment, along with a fellow councillor and a third-party person meeting for lunch and discussing such things as, blowing up mosques, banning the Koran as hate speech and threatening the Prime Ministers life because of his immigration policies it's time someone took a stance. Of course, these statements will be denied by these councillors but one must ask the question, "if you were pres-

ent during such a conversation why didn't you get up and leave or at the very least try and stop the other person from saying such racist comments"?

The only reason you would be sitting down for lunch with such an individual, in my opinion, would be if you were a like minded individual to begin with. These and other racial comments that I have been unfortunately close enough to hear, need to stop and there needs to be a mechanism in place to deal with it when it does come out, especially from our elected officials.

There is nothing in place in the Municipal Government Act (MGA) that gives the Mayor, CAO or even council the authority to take any type of disciplinary action towards councillors who choose to act this way and harbour these beliefs. Because of this fact I no longer feel as though I can represent my constituents unless changes take place which allow for council to discipline councillors for such conduct.

You only must look as far as Toronto and the Mayor Rob Ford fiasco to understand what I'm getting at. In my opinion if you are elected to a public position such as County Councillor it is expected of you to show respect to all members of your community not just the ones you chose personally. An elderly friend of mine used to say, "if you're not part of the solution then you're part of the prob-

lem!". The problem with the solution I think will work, is it will take the municipalities and the provincial government years to accomplish. I don't believe, for one moment, racism is going to come to an end in my time so why not a code of conduct embedded into the MGA? This will not help end racism in anyway but it will help municipal governments act against such councillors who don't seem to understand the damage they are doing to the community they have pledged to serve.

The type of message these actions send to the world is horrific and to think of the effect it has from an economic and tourism perspective! The impact on immigration alone could be devastating considering the vast majority of immigrants entering Canada at this time are Muslim. It would be very difficult to sit at a council table making decisions which impact each one of your life's in some way knowing fair well these individuals have a say in any such matter. I understand not everyone is going to agree with my decision but please respect my right to make it.

In closing, I would like to say "Thank You" to all the councillor's and staff who have always been there for me and helped guide me through some turbulent waters at times. You have my respect and admiration!

**Doug MacInnes submitted a Letter of Resignation as Councillor District 10 on July 17, 2017**

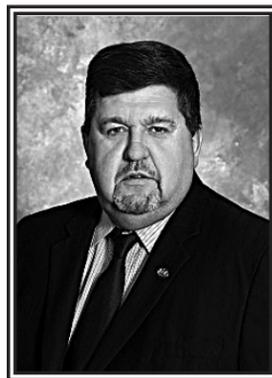
## We need to have a conversation about Racism

I would like to make a statement in reference to recent articles in Frank Magazine, TDN and social Media.

This is a very unfortunate situation and one that I believe we need to take a lesson from. **I truly believe we need to have a conversation regarding Racism.**

I would first like to say, I truly hope people do not believe that I am a racist! There have been 2 allegations that I would like to respond to. First is the allegation that I personally, may have made comments in reference to the Prime Minister, to the Muslim faith and to mosques in general. Those allegations I absolutely deny! I had lunch with a friend who many years ago lived as a Christian in a community controlled by Sharia Law. At that time April 25 2017 there was what was referred to as the Anti islamophobia bill being passed through the House of Commons. My friend who has a very deep seated fear of Sharia Law was commenting on this bill and his fears. As I said, I made no comments relating to the above.

Now on the second allegation of me making a racist comment in council I am guilty. During a heated discussion in camera at our council approximately 3 to 4 years ago I made a derogatory comment that I immediately regretted. Now I cannot recollect that it was what is currently referred



**Colchester District 10 Councillor Tom Taggart** to, however it was not whispered in anyone's ear, it was stated clearly.

Councillor McInnis was clearly upset by this comment and left the meeting. The next morning I called and asked Councillor McInnis to have coffee, we met at Tim Horton's on Robie Street and I apologized. I believed it was accepted. Regardless, if Councillor McInnis chose not to accept, that is fine as well because I was clearly in the wrong.

**This is where I believe we should have been having a conversation.** It appears to me this has continued to fester. Had I known I would have attempted to correct my mistake. However for the past four and one half years I have set next to Councillor McInnis unaware. We have often supported each other on issues and also often opposed each

other on issues. As a matter of fact we have often commented how important it is to have healthy debate and remain friends. We truly **should have been having the conversation.**

In his letter of resignation Councillor McInnis stated "However in a Municipal Council setting, what I have learned over the past five years is that Councillors can voice their opinion in a racist and harmful way with virtually no possibility of disciplinary action towards them."

This would seem to indicate that Councillor McInnis has discussed his concerns in reference to racism with either the leadership of our council, council's legal advisor or some other municipal authority.

If this was the case **why did we not have a conversation?**

This brings me to the current situation. During June council committee meeting during an open session debate in reference to paving of Municipal roads the councillor became enraged at a fellow councillor, made some comments and left the table. Councillor McInnis later sent an apology and indicated that he had asked for leave from Council until Sept as he had some personal things he wanted to look after.

Now on July 17 Councillor McInnis has resigned stating that "the issue that has led to

my decision to resign my position started for myself over 3 years ago"

Once again **why have we not had this conversation?**

If my comment of three years ago has caused this kind of stress and concern, I truly regret this.

In my heart, I know I am not a racist, and I hope those that truly know me recognize that I am not a racist.

You can be certain that comments made or believed or alleged to have been made have damaged the relationship with our First Nations neighbours and with Colchester County residents, we need to have **an open fair and frank conversation amongst all parties and we need to have it soon.**

One cannot underscore the importance of not allowing these things to fester. A case in point. The alleged comments that were made or misinterpreted in a restaurant on April 25 and subsequently reported in Frank magazine on July 13

Mayor Blair was at the table with the lady that took offence. Apparently not at the time of the alleged comments, but was clearly aware that the alleged comments had offended her friend. That is when we **should have had the conversation.**

I deeply regret that this has grown into the issue it has become. I look forward to being a part of the **conversation that must be had.**

**Councillor Tom Taggart**