

REES' Pieces

Department of Environment IS TO BLAME

Lunenburg, with its UNESCO designation, is an iconic destination. However there are two sides to the south shore town's problems. In the July 11th issue of the Chronicle Herald the front page details the troubles of Lunenburg Harbour with regard to raw sewage, yet the front page of the business section talks about a development plan is near finalization for the provinces only UNESCO designated municipality.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not picking on Lunenburg. That assumption is far from the remotest of consideration.

In the story about Lunenburg's harbour being in trouble, the opening line states, "Lunenburg Harbour will remain contaminated with sewage as long as there are no laws in place forcing anyone to clean up the pollution or to prevent it in the first place". The province is reported to be considering a coastal protection, but currently there is no provincial or federal act to regulate contamination.

To illustrate the severity of the problem, the Chronicle Herald article stated, "Health Canada states that levels of enterococci must be at or below 175 colonies per 100 milliliters of water to be safe for secondary contact, including sailing and fishing. The concentration falls to 70 colonies per 100 mL for swimming. The Inshore Fishermen's Wharf was tested only once, producing 1,600 colonies per 100 mL, more than nine times higher than the standard for safe secondary contact".

Engineering studies have been done, and more are planned, but it will take years to provide solutions. In short it's bizarre for government to spend money on streetscapes, without having a plan in place to prevent fecal pollution. The provincial Department of Environment is to blame.

The department of Environment lacks broad-based public support for its lack of leadership on matters which have consumed the public for decades. In Colchester North, there was lots of criticism of the department for its lack of action regarding the OSCO quarry in Little Dyke.

Similarly, lines have been drawn in the sand in the Pictou area over the pending closure of Boat Harbour and how the Abercrombie pulp mill plans to solve the problem by discharging the effluent via a treatment facility and elongated pipe into the Northumberland Strait. With application of modern technology scientists say the problem will be fixed.

The Department of Environment is pivotal in all of this. Because of decades of perceived inaction and lack of expertise and enforcement, the public doesn't trust the Department and would risk shutting down the mill than believing DOE officials.

McNeil's Liberals are in a crunch of what to do. All political parties must share blame for a situation which has persisted for almost 50 years. Since they all are party to the unfortunate situation, all provincial parties must work together with the federal government and community to find a solution.

Since 2015, particularly 2016 which saw the election of Donald Trump, the mood of the electorate has changed. Popular politics, the grants of the wishes of taxpayers has taken hold. The electorate is demanding their opinions be heard and heeded.

The situation in Pictou will be pivotal. There is no way the province, especially the forest sector, can permit the mill to close. Trust with DOE must be rebuilt. All parties must work together to consult with the public to make that happen.

Some way must be found to give the public assurances if the technology does not work, then activity will be stopped until a solution is found. In order for the public to be brought inside, they must have control to shut down the operation.

Times have changed. Doing politics the way it was done decades or even five years ago is history. The immediate role of all governments, provincial or federal, yes even municipal, must be to work hard to demonstrate they are representatives of the people, instead of having taxpayers financing government activity.

Premier McNeil must meet directly with residents of Pictou, and appoint them as "the board of directors" who ensure government departments implement regulations. If Premier McNeil can accomplish that, he will set the course for continued operation of the mill, and a road map to his party's re-election in the next election.

Maurice

Along the Shore with Ruth

By Ruth Thompson

Hello again: I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer. Economy United Church Stewards held a very successful ham, salad and strawberry supper on July 7th. Everyone went away from the supper with full tummies.

Reverend Florence and her helpers had a very good time at Vacation Bible Camp week at the Economy Recreation centre from July 9th to the 12th. We had a total number of children all week of 32 children. Most of the children came most days. All enjoyed the camp. Snacks were provided by different members of the communities of Cobequid Charge. The theme of the camp was "Celebrating God's Creation. Thanks to Rev. Florence, Myrna Fisher, Darlene Smith, Linda Field, Debbie Moore and others for a job well done.

Mike Elliott came one day with his guitar to entertain the

children. He was great and the children liked him. Thanks Mike. Bert Fulmore and Bill McLaughlin brought the fire truck, it was a great hit for the children and the older children, you who know who you are. The children had a great time climbing through the truck. The men did hook up the hose to show the children how it was done. Well done gentlemen. Thanks so very much for doing that for the children and the helpers. A BIG thank you goes out to Rev. Florence for all the time she puts into such an event.

Economy U.C.W catered to the funeral reception for Betty Spalding on July 8th. Family was pleased for the amount of People that attended.

On July 14th, there was a 75 KM yard sale from Onslow to Parrsboro. By the way the traffic was going along the road, the sale was well attended and vendors were happy. The yard sale is a great

way for community groups to participate and raise a fair amount of money.

Five Islands Church had a successful yard sale on July 7th and again on July 14th.

The 10th Anniversary of the "Not since Moses" walk on the ocean floor was a huge success. There were participants from United Kingdom, United States, Germany, many other countries and several Canadian Provinces. It is amazing how many people travel thousands of miles from other countries to participate in the event.

The walk on the ocean floor is unique around the world and has become a major tourism attraction. Attendance at the municipally-owned but community operated Five Islands Lighthouse Park increases significantly with the largest tourism attraction along the shore. Everyone had a great time getting dirty from the mud in the Bay of Fundy.



Mayor Blair, left, and councillor Lloyd Gibbs present Wayne Smith with a certificate of appreciation for his large Humboldt hockey stick which is on display at ECC centre. (Rees Photo)

Debert Legion Notes

By Dan Martell

Congratulations are passed along to Donnie Fraser on winning "Chase the Ace" here at Branch 106. A very special thank you is passed along to the workers from Colchester Ground Search and Rescue, the Debert and Area Community Association, plus the Debert Legion.

To all the businesses and establishments who helped sell tickets for the events, thank you very much for your help. To all who helped support our run, thank you very much. Your support was/is greatly appreciated. Good Lord willing we will be up and running in September.

A special thank you is passed along to Branch 106 for the beautiful supper they put on for their workers over the

past year or so, The Friday Night Suppers, The Village Follies, The Chase the Ace Crew, the lunches for the First Aid people. Thank you 106.

The benefit fundraiser held here at Branch 106 for Huck Higgin can best be described as a huge success.

It all started with a beautiful lobster supper and a big thank you to Bruce Higgins for the fine job he did on those beasts. To all the people (business men/women) who donated merchandise for prizes, thank you very much, your generosity and thoughtfulness was/is greatly appreciated.

To all the people who helped in any way at all, thank you very much. The winner of the 30/30 Winchester was Allen Millen. A very large sum of money was turned over to

the Higgins family.

Happy Anniversary wishes for July are passed along to Jane and Glen MacDorman, Mike and Carolyn Totten, Marcia and Norman Eastcott, Gloria and Doug Mattatall, Betty and Clare Reid, Betty and Robert Hill, Wendy and Dave MacPhee, Connie and Sam Worthington, Susan and Mike Taylor.

Happy Birthday wishes for July are passed along to Valerie Yantha, Mandy Slack, Bill Wood, Bruce Higgins, Earl Harvey, Ron Totten, Debbie Buchanan, Savannah Barclay, Jim Adshade, Eric McCully and Helen Eastcott.

Please don't forget to thank a Veteran, it is because of their sacrifices we are able to enjoy our freedom and our country.

Please say a prayer for our troops who are serving in foreign countries and their families.

Great job everyone.

On August 10th there will be an Old Fashioned Variety Concert at the Victoria Hall starting at 7:30. Come visit and enjoy some very wonderful performances. Free will offering. On August 11th there will be the annual Bass River Heritage Day. Come see what Bass River has to offer. Come meet up with old friends and meet new ones.

Linda and Olsen Field welcomed into the family a sweet great granddaughter on July 14. Her name is Elsie-Mae Irene Wells. She weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces. Mother and Father and grandmothers are doing well. Congratulations to all.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

- BASS RIVER:**
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store
- BIBLE HILL:**
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
- DEBERT:**
Debert Mini-Mart
- FIVE ISLANDS:**
Masstown Market Five Islands
- GLENHOLME:**
Double "C" Truckstop
Glenholme General Store
- GREAT VILLAGE:**
Wilson's Gas
- MAITLAND:**
Frieze & Roy General Store
- MASSTOWN:**
Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)
- MILLBROOK:**
Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites
- NORTH RIVER:**
Grant's Grocery
- PARRSBORO:**
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave
- TRURO:**
Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
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MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop
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