

REES' Pieces

Rough, But Good Times Ahead

When we listen to and absorb the local rumours, provincial, national and international news if one was a disbeliever there is no way good times and a very bright future could be in our offing. What's in front of us now?

Let's take a tally of all the negative things, which cause us grief, or keep us awake at night. By listing the negative things, we are essentially are making a target list or scorepads. When we are reasonably sure the list is complete, pat yourself on the back because you have completed Task # 1. Task # 2 will be rate the items either the ones most problematic or easiest solved.

Now might be the appropriate time to develop some complexity to our future. Why not develop Task #2A and Task #2B? You choose which is the hardest to solve or eliminate, while the other list will be the ones you exert a bit more effort to get them solved and out of the way first.

Warning, always be mindful you have two lists. Be sure to study and review both regularly. As you work with the two lists, at first you will see progress in baby steps. With a bit of time baby steps will be history as your comfort level about a brighter future invades your thoughts.

Let's take a break and list some of the things causing problems in Colchester and area of / about which many people are mentioning at the water fountain, coffee shop or you see on social media would include: cost of gas and furnace oil; food; electricity; and roads. Those are hard ones to crack, but we can make changes which helps with the budgeting. Carpool with a neighbour each one day a week. Car pooling one day a week reduces your cost by 20%. Savings possible by teaming up to take kids to recreation, music or dancing.

Now let's switch to things we find more aggravating or worrisome: Government closing your favourite or community museum: Trump imposing additional tariffs; your dug well running dry and you can't afford the cost to get potable water. You are severely ticked off the RECC is costing each of Town of Truro and the County of Colchester \$1.25-Million a year comprised of \$750,000 each for mortgage, plus an additional \$500,000 in operating budget and now due to mismanagement of the maintenance program, as taxpayers you are expected to cough up an additional \$5-6-Million.

Perhaps the final straw when the owners (Truro & Colchester) last May replaced the Board of Directors with an interim board only to show that board the exit in fall, circa October, replacing them with six elected councillors - three each from Truro and Colchester. Most people who have contacted me or I've talked to do not question the capabilities or the experience of any of the six councillors. What is concerning most people question is possible conflicts of interest and public who pays the bills is not represented.

As things evolve, it was recently made public there are at least two patches of documents or letters, rumoured to be suits and claims submitted circa November 25 have not been brought before council. I can't confirm, but have been told from a very reliable inside source it has been eight months since receipt for things with a possible legal connection still not brought to council.

Things can happen and do go astray. A word of caution to the public is be patience, make sure you get the truth; organize then proceed to make sure your interests are fully represented.

Within either municipal unit the responsibility is not who delayed bringing to council, but they are at fault. Now that things are public, the CAO's head is on the line to ensure integrity of all municipal activity whether at staff or member of council level.

These mis-management situations occasionally happen, but will get corrected for the better.

In the beginning, I mentioned rough, but good times ahead. That honour goes to the Colchester 4-H Community of dedicated leaders; supportive parents and a slew of willing ambitious members. Their commitment to believe in themselves, to step up and save the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition deserves our utmost thanks and respect. Without you the NSPE would have been lost forever. THANK YOU!!!

Maurice

OP-ED Statement on Progress in Mining Sector

NOTE: The following is a statement from Tory Rushton.

Our government is protecting our future by building our mining sector in Nova Scotia. There is momentum that is undeniable.

Over the past few months, we have seen major projects move forward that will support communities, create jobs and grow our economy. As we face global uncertainty due to trade tariffs from the United States, now it is more important than ever to responsibly develop our resources here in Nova Scotia.

Last month, we announced the Nova Scotia Mining Roundtable to strengthen collaboration with industry and support responsible mineral development across the province. Yesterday, the roundtable met for the first time. We met with sector leaders to discuss practical ways to support investment, improve competitiveness and grow Nova Scotia's mining sector.

This roundtable will be a game-changer. It will help ensure we are supporting industry and communities responsibly, while positioning Nova Scotia to make the most of new opportunities in mining and critical minerals.

That momentum continued last week when Scotia Mine Ltd.'s zinc mine in Cooks Brook, Halifax County, received approval for changes to its industrial approval, allowing the mine to restart operations. This is the latest project to get underway and is a significant milestone for Nova Scotia and an important step forward for our critical minerals sector.

As the first critical mineral mining project to receive approval since the release of Nova Scotia's Critical Minerals Strategy, Scotia Mine shows that our province can support responsible resource development while creating jobs, attracting investment and contributing to the clean energy transition.

The mine will produce zinc, a critical mineral used in renewable energy technologies, batteries, electric vehicles, infrastructure and protecting steel from corrosion. It will also produce lead used in batteries and gypsum, which is important to housing and agriculture. These are materials the world needs, and Nova Scotia is well positioned to help supply them.

The restart of this historic mining operation is expected to create about 150 direct jobs and support economic activity for more than 14 years. By using existing infrastructure, the project can reduce development timelines and costs while supporting a modern operation that meets today's environmental standards.

Together, the launch of the mining roundtable, restart of Scotia Mine and the multiple other projects gaining momentum show the progress we are making to build a stronger, more

OP-ED Statement on Protester Incident

NOTE: The following is a statement from the Premier's Office.

Earlier July 15th, Premier Houston had an event in Wolfville speaking with Nova Scotians. Following that event, an extreme faction amongst a group of protesters turned the event violent. While we always respect the right of the public to peacefully protest, what happened after the event was the farthest thing from peaceful.

In trying to leave the venue, the Premier's vehicle along with his staff's vehicles were swarmed by rioters, preventing them from leaving. These criminals blocked them in, were pushing law enforcement, climbing onto the car the Premier was in and smashed the windshield with the Premier in the car.

We want to thank the RCMP and law enforcement for their swift response in what was a very volatile situation.

As evidenced by this tour of the province, the Premier will engage with anyone. He will listen, and he has shown he will change his mind based on those respectful conversations.

When bad actors resort to damaging property and putting lives at risk, they do nothing to advance constructive dialogue.

That's not the Bluenoser way.

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0
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Dear editor:

Prime Minister Carney just announced the annual July recalculation of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2026-27 year to keep pace with inflation. For children under 6 it's \$160/month increase, for children aged 6-17 it's \$135/month increase and this is a non-taxable benefit. Our tax dollars already pay for subsidized daycare, for subsidized universal lunch programs and now parents will receive more a month for a CCB than a senior citizen receives on the Old Age Security (OAS) benefit.

Yet seniors OAS benefit is a taxable income. The last significant OAS increases have only gone to those aged 75+ which is discriminatory as it's based on age. Seniors are not exempt from paying income tax, nor are seniors exempt from paying property taxes if we own our home. Seniors are being financially disadvantaged from every angle by this government especially the seniors aged 65-74. In the past 12 months my OAS increased by \$10/month and during that same time period using the same Consumer Price Index the CCB has increased \$135-\$160/month. I don't have to be a mathematician to know that's unjustly disadvantaging seniors. Seniors call your MP's Office, email them as well and demand our fair treatment.

Beth Wilkinson
Porters Lake, NS

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
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop

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
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

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Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary;
Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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Maurice Rees, Publisher,
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