

REES' Pieces

An anti-incumbent electorate.

Be careful what you wish.

For years politicians and political parties have bemoaned the declining turnout of eligible voters at elections at all three levels. In some elections, more than 65% of eligible voters did not support the winning party.

In the recent NB election, David Alward's Tories increased their share of the popular vote by less than 3%, but doubled the number of MLA's chosen to form the next government. Anger against the Graham Liberals increased voter turn-out by around 4%. 30% still stayed away from the polls.

Everyone has been scratching their heads how to increase the number of voters willing to make a trek to the polls. Prompting, begging and urging voters has not worked in the past.

However, today's politicians, federally and provincially may have stumbled onto a solution to the turn-out problem. It called "ticking off the voter" and they will flock to the polls to oust you and elect someone else. It's not that the other party is favoured, it's just they are rebelling against you.

Why are voters rebelling? It's because they are "ticked-off" and will not rest until they get what they want. As a result it seems a greater number of voters are rallying against "the anti-incumbents".

At the federal level proroguing parliament, not once, but twice awoke the docile giant. Once awake, anger started to trickle down to provincial and municipal levels. Politicians, at all levels, continue to run afoul of the voter every day.

The sleeping giant is getting more hostile everyday, yet those in power haven't learned what they need to learn.

It's open season on incumbents. Only those who listen to their constituents have any real hope of being somewhat accepted in a door-to-door campaign. That's good, but there is also a downside.

A snake-oil salesman with lots of personal appeal can rise to the top simply by telling voters what they want to hear. The voters may have gotten what they wanted, but there is no assurance fulfilling their wishes will bring good government. Those already elected need to turn 180 degrees from past actions. Voters want someone who will listen to them; be honest and forthcoming; take their positions seriously; work for the best overall benefit of everyone and consult, consult and consult again.

According to Peter Stoffer, he changed his vote based on 62% public opinion from over 3,000 constituents. Publicly, he showed he was listening to his constituents. Shawn Graham lost the premiership of New Brunswick for a variety of reasons, but paramount of all, was not constantly consulting and not being forthcoming.

Howard Epstein upset the applegart of NDP caucus and HRM proponents by releasing information the new convention centre will cost \$160-million. Prematurely, releasing the information sent everyone into a tail-spin.

Public opinion opposing the construction of the convention centre is running rampant and it has become more focused on the design than the costs, although the burden on taxpayers is of major concern.

Certainly, Halifax needs \$500-million investment, but finding a compromise solution to the satisfaction of taxpayers may not be possible.

Whether a slip of the tongue or intentional, Epstein, at least, let the voter know the situation before decisions became final.

If the entire project including the convention centre will be as successful as proponents believe, the project should proceed. For the politicians walking the fine line to make it more palatable is their task at hand.

Now that the taxpayers are upset, every decision is going to be dissected. The electorate is going to continue to demand better government and pragmatic spending of taxpayer dollars.

Even decisions like keeping up to 1,000 troops in Afghanistan for non-combat roles will keep the pot boiling. Regardless of the magnitude of the decision, taxpayers will place it under a microscope.

Politics has changed. "Anti-incumbent" feelings will trickle down to Colchester County. Starting today, if they have not already done it, MLAs and councilors need to access how they are conducting themselves when representing area residents.

Politicians who take action to reduce "anti-incumbent" feelings will be worthy of re-election. Newbie's take heed and make sure you can meet the electorate's demand.

Maurice

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

(902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Dear Editor:

As fall blends into winter, many Nova Scotians are making plans with their family doctor to receive their annual flu shot. Although flu season has arrived, it's important to talk to your doctor about the status of all of your vaccines.

Vaccines provide protection against contracting a number of serious diseases. Advances in research and technology mean that the number of diseases that can be prevented by vaccines is growing. Even though several vaccines are publicly funded, adults commonly forget to ask their doctor about their vaccines. Many may not know that regular boosters are required. By not staying up-to-date on your immunization schedule you miss opportunities to protect yourself from diseases such as tetanus, pertussis or the "whooping cough", influenza, and pneumococcal disease. The tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine is required every 10 years, while the influenza vaccine is recommended annually. It's especially important that new parents are up-to-date on required booster shots. Doctors in Nova Scotia seek to improve and sustain immunization coverage across the province. Routine vaccination has resulted in a marked decline of pertussis in every country with a vaccination program. Vaccines are safe, effective and protect people of all ages from a wide variety of diseases. Doctors in Nova Scotia encourage you to discuss the status of your tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccines. Make an appointment with your doctor and review your vaccine history to ensure you are up-to-date on all of your immunizations. To view the Nova Scotia Immunization Schedule for Adults, visit www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/cdpc/immunization.asp.

Sincerely,

Jane Brooks, MD, PhD, CCFP
President, Doctors Nova Scotia

Dear Editor:

November 11th was a cold and windy day as usual. I think that the weather is very symbolic to us. It makes us stop and think how life must have been for those in the trenches during the wars.

At the Remembrance Day services in Great Village, we had a very good turnout this year. We have people from all walks of life, young and old, those of Canadian citizenship and those who are proud to live in Canada, join our service every year.

I was very surprised and pleased to see the RCMP at our service this year. I assumed they would be there to stop traffic as a sign of respect for our Veterans during the service. Well, my Mom told me never to assume anything. Oh course she was right again.

The RCMP was there to direct traffic through the crowd of people that patriotically stand and give their respects. I could not believe it when I was told that

this was a public roadway and one lane of traffic would be open.

I can not believe that the RCMP first of all would even think that this would be a safe option as so many have young children that stand on that roadway, secondly how did they think that the service could even be heard over the sound of the vehicles passing by. Last, but not least did they really think that we were going to let them through?

Once a year we are asked to stop and remember and pay respect for those that gave so much for us, so we can live a freely as we do. Is this so much to ask?

Next year when the RCMP decide to come a direct traffic they can put up a detour sign and direct them around the service instead of through it, because in Great Village as long as we have Veterans and a Remembrance Day service we will stand on the road and show our respect.

Sincerely, Heather MacKay

Dear Editor,

This year marked the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

As a member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program and its Operation Legacy, a group of committed young people who are dedicated to preserving Canada's military heritage, I would like to highlight this anniversary by making the public aware of The Canadian Army Newsreels being released on DVD by The War Amps. In cooperation with Library and Archives Canada, The War Amps is making the complete set of The Canadian Army Newsreels available to the public for the first time, as part of its Military Heritage Series. Featuring more than 20 hours of footage, this six-DVD set contains 106 newsreels filmed and produced by the Canadian Army Film Unit. Army cameramen documented the Canadian troops in training and on the front lines. They scooped the world on major events; including the invasion of Sicily and D-Day.

Members of Operation Legacy are donating The Canadian Army Newsreels to their local libraries to help spread the message of remembrance to their communities across Canada.

A vignette about the Canadian Army Film Unit, and samples of the newsreels, can be viewed on The War Amps YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/warampsofcanada or at waramps.ca.

The newsreels and all documentaries in The War Amps Canadian Military Heritage Series are available at a cost-recovery price by calling 1 800 250-3030 or visiting waramps.ca.

Sincerely, Matthew Handrahan,
Charlottetown, PEI
Operation Legacy Member

Remembrance Day in Great Village

Remembrance Day morning I noticed that DOT and the RCMP were putting pylons on the road starting at the Great Village Elementary school, and I thought "wow", progress, we will finally be safer on the road during the ceremony.

But... no, that was not the case; the idea was to have traffic on one half of the road, just driving by on our heels... and then to have the little kids who are still walking around, to me is very unsafe. Not to mention very annoying with the sound of passing traffic so you can't really follow the ceremony.

We should be able to spend the Remembrance Day ceremony in solitude, peace and quietness for just one hour in a whole year without cars driving by. "Somebody" told me it was unlawful to close the road, but I think maybe SANTA is more important, because roads are nicely being closed off for his parading. For the last 25 years as I remember, the whole width of the road has been used during Remembrance Day and we never had a problem. Emergency vehicles would always go through. In closing: Let's hope that next year we will have a quiet and traffic-free Remembrance Day.

And: We Will Remember!

Tony van den Hoek, Great Village

Letter from the Publisher

On November 12th it didn't take long for the phone to start ringing with subscribers and readers complaining about how traffic was handled in Great Village during Remembrance Day ceremonies. Then shortly thereafter, I received a photograph showing what I would interpret as a "not-so-friendly" conversation between an RCMP officer and Tony van den Hoek, Great Village.

Two letters to the editor con-

cerning this situation have been submitted and are printed elsewhere on this page.

I did do some checking and was informed, on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, Councilor Tom Taggart called the RCMP requesting their assistance in blocking off and stopping traffic on Highway #2 during the Remembrance Day Service. Normally, I don't get in the middle of such situations, because I don't want to use the Shoreline to present my own agenda or personal thoughts. However, since many people in the Great Village area are upset, and with the importance Canadians place on recognizing and remembering those who gave their lives for democracy, I feel it is important to point out my observation from a Remembrance Day service elsewhere. In the photos received of the Remembrance Day service in Parrsboro, it is clearly evident the large crowd blocked off Main Street in Parrsboro. I'm not sure if different rules or regulations apply to the two communities, but both are on Hwy #2.

In Parrsboro, several RCMP officers in Red Serge participated in the parade and in another photo appear to be forming an honour guard at the base of the cenotaph. Those placing wreaths walked, from where they were standing on Main Street, between two lines of RCMP officers to lay wreaths at the cenotaph. Other photos received but not published show Main Street in Parrsboro is void of vehicles, except for those parked at the curb.

I'm not sure, who is right, but I felt it important to inform readers of what I have observed on the computer screen without leaving my office.

Sincerely,

Maurice Rees, Publisher

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:

Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BELMONT:

Belmont General Store

DEBERT:

Barnhill's Superette
Debert Mini-Mart

ECONOMY:

Economy Country Store

FIVE ISLANDS:

Diane's Restaurant
Ellis Video
Masstown Market Five Islands
Mo's Café

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop
Glenholme General Store

GREAT VILLAGE:

C. D. Smith's Rite-Stop
Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market

NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

ONSLow:

Onslow Market

PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore
Cavanagh's Market Ltd.
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave
(Esplanade)

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact: Maurice Rees, Publisher, 902-647-2968, or E-mail: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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.

PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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

All rights reserved. Material published in The Shoreline Journal may not be reproduced in an form without prior approval of the publisher. Material to be returned to sender must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

1996 Heritage Award recipient. Listed with Canadian Advertising Rates & Data (CARD) and Bowden's Media Monitoring Service.

The publisher is not responsible for minor errors in ads, which do not lessen the value of the item(s). The publisher is not responsible for space beyond that portion of the advertisement containing the item(s) in error. Letters to the editor are subject to editing or rejection, must be signed by the author and contain a phone number.

