

REES' Pieces

Let's buy Alberta Crude Oil

In four recent news articles which Premier Dexter has been one of the main subjects, the score is tied 2 in favour and 2 against. This last couple of weeks he is batting 500.

Let's look at the things against him first. A very weak response to a reporter's question concerning accusations of improper treatment of residents at the Nova Scotia School for Coloured Children, with his response "must be very careful". That didn't get interpreted as strong support or taking leadership to find answers to problems affecting a minority group.

Second was revelation he spent over \$7,000 for a first class ticket when New Brunswick and PEI premiers travelled for far less. In fact Premier Ghiz's ticket cost approximately 30% less. Nothing riles up the electorate more than the perception elected officials and public servants are living high off the hog. Travelling at the public expense in super luxury, when colleagues, travel with less fanfare is akin to expecting to watch a large screen television and have the public pay for it.

To his benefit there are two things which Premier Dexter has done, for which he should be congratulated. Granted we don't have a spare \$100-million to spend buying the former Bowater-Mersey lands from Resolute, but is sure has engendered public support province wide. I'm not saying \$100-million is the right price, but it might have been the figure necessary to prop-up the employee pension plan. If there were no other prospective buyers lurking in the wings, or if the price could have been lower, a lower price should have been negotiated. But Dexter deserves credit to making a decision. At least Nova Scotians will own more forest land.

His second accomplishment will gain public support, when residents understand what it means, was chairing a meeting of Canadian Premiers which moved toward moving Alberta heavy crude oil from the West (Alberta) to the East (Quebec) and eventually through New Brunswick to the Irving Oil refinery in Saint John.

Although he chaired the meeting, he did not seem to express total enthusiasm for reversing pipeline flow. One would have hoped he was helping NB premier David Alward in championing the cause. If a million or so barrels of oil could be shipped east, the economic benefits to the Atlantic region would be unparalleled.

Here's a simple fact which demonstrated where the benefit starts. The price of crude on the world market is hovering in the range between \$88 and \$109 per barrel. Alberta crude is priced around \$40 per barrel.

Just imagine how much more Nova Scotia is spending on gasoline and all products made from crude oil purchased from the mid-east. It's not that we should not buy from external sources, but if we could spend our hard earned dollars in Canada first, all regions in Canada would benefit.

Readers Call to Action. If you would like to spend less on furnace oil, or gasoline and diesel fuel for your vehicles, why not contact your elected officials, asking them to be proactive to have cheaper Canadian crude oil delivered to Atlantic Canada.

Yes, Scott Armstrong, MP is the man to take the message to Ottawa and you should contact him.

But I have a different take on the matter, which will gather much more support. There's going to be a provincial election next year and all parties will be seeking public support.

Start at the municipal level. Contact your local councillor and ask them to put the matter on the agenda for council. I'm fairly confident it would pass. As more municipal councils approved the resolution, it will give Premier Dexter more reason to be a whole lot more pro-active.

The matter is already on the radar screen of the other premiers. The more grassroot we can make this movement, the more pressure on provincial capitals and Ottawa to get it done.

The only thing which could stall the matter is if there is still a strong feeling from Alberta elected politicians, which translates to "let Atlantic Canadians freeze". If that thought still exists in the highest offices in the land, let's make sure it is reversed, just as the pipeline flow needs to be reversed.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Editor:

In a letter dated November 16th, Minister of International Co-operation Julian Fantino talked about Canada's assistance on the combat against tuberculosis, but obviously avoided talking about the major cuts in CIDA's budget and their impacts on tuberculosis-related deaths.

The bottom line is that Minister Fantino's government is cutting \$319 million over the next three years in CIDA's budget, which includes reducing multi-lateral spending on tuberculosis control by \$10 million per year.

As it costs about \$20 per patient to cure this preventable disease, these savings represent quite a lot in terms of human lives.

Bruno Marquis, 1351 Rita Gatineau (Qc), J8P 7W3

Dear Editor:

I was disappointed to learn of the problems during the Remembrance Day Service at the Great Village cenotaph. These concerns were similar to those last year. At that time I met with the RCMP Bible Hill Detachment regarding their role with traffic control during Remembrance Day Services and other community events.

Following my meetings with them I believed that the concerns were understood and would be

addressed. I was very disappointed that the problem surfaced again this year and I have contacted the RCMP to bring this to their attention one more time.

I will be sharing the results of that meeting with my constituents and others. It would appear to me that a sense of cooperation and mutual respect would go a long way to resolve the problem and to help us move forward. Surely, those attending the service, drivers approaching the cenotaph, and law enforcement officers can ensure that the respect our veterans deserve can be achieved.

**Karen Casey, MLA
Colchester North**

Dear Editor,

I am a member of The War Amps Operation Legacy, which consists of young members and graduates of the Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program who are dedicated to preserving and commemorating Canada's military heritage by teaching younger generations about our nation's wartime history.

I have had the privilege to learn about Canada's military heritage and also know what it is like to live without a limb - a strong bond that I share with war amputee veterans. CHAMP was started by war amputee veterans and I want to give back to those who have given me so much.

For the past nine years, I have been involved with laying a wreath at my local Cole Harbour Place Remembrance Day parade. It's not much, but I enjoy doing so every year.

I encourage all of you to learn more about Canada's history by means of The War Amps Military Heritage Series documentaries, which can be ordered at waramps.ca. Sincerely,

**Phil Poulin, Operation Legacy
Member, Cole Harbour, NS**

(Editor's Note: The following letter was circulated to Karen Casey, MLA, Peter Stoffer, MP and the Shoreline Journal on Friday, November 15th. In the public interest, we have reprinted exactly as received). Readers wishing to comment further, will be given similar space.

Dear Ms. Casey,

It has been my family's privilege to attend Remembrance Day Services in Great Village for the past 20 plus years out of respect for and to offer thanks to my 90 year old father in law who is a WW 2 Veteran and to pay tribute to his fallen comrades.

Our Veterans put their lives in great danger to provide the peace and comfort we live in, in Canada today.

In Great Village on Remembrance Day, each year our Veterans, Legion Members and Fire

Department Members are forced to put their lives in danger again when they march from the Legion to the Cenotaph and back. Attendees of the Service are also forced to put their lives in danger by simply attending the Service.

Traffic is uncontrolled before, during and after the Remembrance Day Service.

I'm sure this is not the first time this untenable situation has been presented to you, but this year was the worst I have witnessed.

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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:

Barnhill's Superette
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

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
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave
(Esplanade)

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Don't sell a stock just to trigger a tax loss

By Kim Inglis

Develop a strategy for tax loss selling now to reap dividends later. Tax loss selling typically occurs in the first half of December and often results in bumpy markets. The stocks most vulnerable to volatility are those trading near their 52-week lows. The best performing stocks are also affected because investors often sell winners to crystallize profits in conjunction with tax loss selling in order to minimize or eliminate capital gains. Mutual fund managers who trigger losses to avoid showing them in year-end reports exacerbate the volatility.

However, these actions open the door to opportunity. Investors who have been sitting on the sidelines are well positioned because they can acquire good quality stocks whose prices have been depressed by tax loss sellers.



Unlike tax loss sellers, who must abide by superficial loss rules, investors with cash have an advantage because they can acquire the depressed stocks before the tax loss sellers can re-enter the markets.

Investors who are not sitting on cash, but need to do some tax loss selling, should act early in order to be at a cash advantage during the tax loss selling season and benefit from depressed prices too. Additionally they will have more time to assess trends,

analyze potential purchases, and determine best exit points. Early action helps avoid even greater losses in the sale of losing positions, which can result from liquidation when selling pressures are at their peak.

After a less than stellar year, the markets offer investors a number of tax loss selling prospects. The TSX Venture Index is into double digit losses on a year-to-date basis. The S&P/TSX Index also has a number of losers, although on a year-to-date basis it is still slightly in the green. The S&P/TSX 60 Index's five worst performers so far this year are Research In Motion (TSX: RIM), Enerplus (TSX: ERF), Penn West Petroleum (TSX: PWT), TransAlta (TSX: TA), and SNC-Lavalin (TSX: SNC).

In order to crystallize a capital loss, investors must

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