

Letters to the Editor

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During the Minute of Silence and right in front of the Cenotaph an RCMP member in full parade dress attempted to lead two trucks eastbound along Highway 2, right through the middle of the silent and dismayed crowd.

A short confrontation developed between the RCMP member and a gentleman in the crowd when the gentleman would not move to allow the trucks to pass and further interrupt the service. The RCMP member may not have been present to enforce traffic

control but unfortunately found himself thrust into the middle of an awkward situation.

This situation is not only dangerous but a disgraceful lack of respect to honor our war veterans and their fallen comrades.

A Legion Band member related a near miss accident during this year's parade when a vehicle traveling above the speed limit and headed east came around the corner by the Fire Hall only to find the road filled with people. The vehicle braked heavily and fortunately no one was injured.

The parade and service only lasts at most, for an hour and there is no reason why motorists could not be diverted to alternate routes or given the choice to wait out the event.

It is not a matter of "if" someone gets injured during the service it is a matter of "when".

Who would shoulder the responsibility of that occurrence?

Would it be Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, the RCMP, the Legion, the participants in the service? The answer is all of the above

because of a lack of a cohesive plan to control traffic for a one hour period once a year in a small village. I sincerely hope it does not take an accident to necessitate change in this circumstance.

If the Toronto Transit Commission can accommodate a Remembrance Day Minute of Silence by stopping their buses:

http://www.ttc.ca/News/2012/November/NR_TTC_vehicles_to_pause_on_Remembrance_Day.jsp

and the City of St. John's NL can accommodate Remembrance Day Services with traffic control:

<http://www.stjohns.ca/public-advisory/remembrance-day-road-closures>

and countless other Canadian municipalities can control traffic for Santa Clause parades, then surely there is a duty in Nova Scotia to provide the same level of safety to our Veterans in Great Village and those veterans in other similar circumstances.

As a suggestion, in Great Village traffic could be temporarily delayed as the parade starts and finishes and then diverted along other routes, alternatively

traffic could be diverted to the 104 in both directions. All traffic should be required to stop during the minute of silence in the area of the Cenotaph.

In the event of an emergency, emergency vehicles would take priority access to all routes.

I do not speak on behalf of anyone associated with Remembrance Day Services in Great Village and speak solely as a concerned father and grandfather whose family attends these services.

I ask that you undertake all measures necessary to rectify this disgraceful and dangerous situation during Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Great Village.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply,

D. Lowe, Beaver Bank, NS

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Colchester Firefighters Association and Michael Gaultious, I want to thank the Shoreline Journal for their excellent coverage of our school and public tour, both before and after the "burn survivor" event. It's important to note the Shoreline attend the school

session and published an excellent write-up and pictures.

After visiting six Junior High Schools, one elementary group and an adult session in Bible Hill Fire Hall, it was most rewarding to see the respect and attention given to Michael. He spoke to approximately 2,000 students and 100 adults in the three days. Many students came forward with handshakes, hugs and later e-mails.

It is our hope many students will get an emotional lift and a strong sense of direction from these presentations. He, not only, talked about fire prevention, but also dealt with bullying, self-esteem, respect for others and focusing on what a person has, not what they don't have.

Thanks to the Comfort Inn and staff for free accommodation and breakfast and to the fire people who helped arrange the various aspects of the tour.

Finally, a big thank you to the principals and staff at the various schools for their open arms to our request for time.

Walter McElhinney

News from our Federal Capital

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However, with a majority of the members in the House of Commons Bill C-217 passed and is on its way to the Senate for review. Bill C-217 is an important step to ensuring that the respect our soldiers deserve is kept intact, that their bravery will not be forgotten and their sacrifices will not be in vain.

Of course, the memory of our fallen and the bravery of our soldiers is stronger than the acts of criminals. However, to stand indifferent to such repulsive actions is unconscionable. That is why I am in full support of this legislation and sending a strong message to those who would desecrate our memorials that they will be held responsible for their actions.

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll free at 1-888-752-0552; visit me website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong_MP.

Scott Armstrong, MP Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

News from our Provincial Council

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tion, Bill 102 introduced by the same Minister of Education. Once again, it was weak and shallow, and lacked any concrete steps or actions to respond to the problem. And, once again, as Education Critic, I introduced amendments. I also, on behalf of the Liberal Caucus, introduced new legislation, Bill 106, which the NDP have refused to debate.

Let me be clear, the issue of Cyberbullying should not be a political issue. It is one all political parties should work on together. It is a social problem and as your elected member, I am trying to do that. I have a responsibility to work on your behalf to make our schools safer.

It was quite appalling to hear MLAs with the NDP say their constituents were thrilled with Bill 102. I spoke with educators and parents and law enforcement officers who strongly disagree. No one should be thrilled until we have taken steps to protect our students from harm and hurt caused by cyberbullying.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North Ph: 902-893-2180

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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recreational facilities for residents; attract new residents to support local businesses, which pays a higher level of taxes. Do not lose site of the fact a significant amount of the space and therefore the cost is for office space. There is a long term rental agreement with the Nova Scotia Dept of health, which will, over time, help with the operating cost.

Consider the fact when approved we had a commitment of \$10-million from the Province and \$10-million from the Federal Govt to construct a \$45-million dollar facility. Now consider many say we (the Town and the County) are dying because there is nothing to do and we are not pro-active enough.

Now consider ten years later we are in desperate need of new facilities; we have 4 older, costly rinks and there is not enough ice time for minor hockey etc. The same building now costs \$65-million instead of \$45-million and the Federal and Provincial money is not there. We look back and say, why we not do this earlier, because we just simply cannot afford it now.

I supported it for these reasons. I thought it was the right thing to do then. I still think it was the right decision and I still stand by my support of this project.

Now I just want to touch briefly on the naming rights. This did not come to council for a decision. It did come to us for discussion and we most certainly had the opportunity to give direction to those on the board. This discussion was in camera, however most of the dollar figures have been made public.

Yes, there are those who are unhappy we sold these naming rights. Yes, the taxpayers of Colchester County are paying \$17-million. However, when you add up all the naming rights being sold it comes to close to \$3-million. Like I said Council did not have the final say on this, but I, for one, am thankful I did not have to go back to the taxpayer and say, sorry but we need another \$3-million from you folks.

Sorry to rant about this. However, this is a large project. Yes, there have been some glitches along the way. I think we need to expect that. However, this is a great project which will benefit the residents of the Town and the County for many, many years to come. It will soon be open for all to enjoy. To those that have taken great pleasure in criticizing this project I say get over it, move on.

I truly hope that as time goes on we will all enjoy the benefits. Tom

Tom Taggart, Councilor District 10, Colchester County

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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meal and conversations with local residents, who are very active in their communities.

This was also a great eye opener for me when it comes to public speaking.

Although I have never had a problem speaking to people one-on-one or to small groups, I soon discovered as I stepped up to the podium I have a lot of work to do on public speaking to large groups. To say I was nervous would be an understatement, so I am off tomorrow to call Andrew Keddy, President of our local Toastmaster Group.

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County



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