

# REES' Pieces

## Found Shoelaces in Truro

Last month I started this column with a plea for someone to let me know where I could find shoelaces in Truro. I had been searching for ages, but without any luck.

Not long after the November issue was published, I received a call answering my plea. I was informed Shopper's Drug Mart, Robie Street carried shoelaces in a special end aisle display across from the Canada Post outline in the back corner.

Luckily, I was able to get what I wanted. It wasn't a large display, but it served my needs. It was in a Kiwi Collection display and included a limited selection of shoe polish. They even had leather laces for work boots. THANKS FOR THE CALL.

It's inconceivable the weather we are having. Last fall, if memory serves me correctly, we had a few cold days then November and December was rather temperate. Not this Fall. October was wetter than normal and before the additional rain drained away, a frigid spell hit. In some places there are ponds big enough to skate on. No wonder with the wind chill temperatures has been hovering in the minus mid-20's.

You might ask how can I verify it is unusually cold? Since 2000, when I purchased a 2,400 sq ft building, which contains a retail store front and two apartments. It also has a washer and dryer. Never in 18 years has the washer been frozen, even though the area where it is located is unheated.

However, the cold has penetrated, thanks to high winds, enough to cause a hose within the washer was slightly freeze. Fifteen minutes with a portable 110v household heater solved the problem. Yes, I can be thankful for the past 18 years, but it worries me what lies ahead.

Is this abnormal, or will climate change make this a regular occurrence?

Now that I am half way through this month's column, perhaps I should start on a rant. I'm not sure which one to elaborate on: the fact OpenHydro has applied for over \$17-Million in tax credits, when several marine companies and others owed in excess of \$6-Million for services performed. My other option is to rant about the provincial procurement fiasco concerning the Electronic Health Records (EHR).

I think I'll leave OpenHydro alone as I've already written two stories about it and they are located elsewhere in this issue.

Now back to the \$500-Million program being pursued by the Provincial Government. In his Chronicle-Herald column on Saturday, Nov 17th Ralph Surette advised "Desert Ship, don't sink money into electronic health records" as the technology is not fully developed and the costs are not firmly fixed. Could it be similar to the federal government's Phoenix pay system, which has not worked properly since it was implemented? We all know federal employees, who have been overpaid, underpaid, or not paid at all.

With me, the EHR program got off to an ill-fated start, when one of the submissions was disqualified for late arrival. The courier delivered the package to the appropriate department. Several calls to the appropriate office went unanswered.

Ironically, the two companies, Allscripts and Cerner, whose submissions were accepted are reported to have relationships with senior staff including making presentations and enjoying dinner together. The one company, Epic, whose proposal did not get to the correct office on-time was just selected as "The top company" in their field in a global survey. A story in the Chronicle-Herald in November stated, "One of the companies snubbed by Nova Scotia in an electronic health record contract bid has been ranked the highest in the world for customer satisfaction. Nearly 90 per cent of users reported "high rates of satisfaction" with Epic Systems' services, according to the industry magazine EHR Intelligence, citing an analysis by Global EMR Performance".

Epic's RFSQ submission was couriered to the

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# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*

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**Dear Editor:**

Just a short note to say "Thank-You". On September 25th at 2:00 am I had a medical emergency. Onslow-Belmont Fire Responders came to

my aid. They knew their stuff.

Secondly, I want to thank all members of all fire departments / brigades along the shore.

A special thanks to all fam-

ily members, who understand and accept why, on occasion, you suddenly leave important family events.

The volunteer time given to learn the fire duties and first

responder responsibilities makes our communities a much safer place to live.

**Thank You all.**  
**John Harrison**

## Restorative Justice: Building a Responsive Justice System

**By Hon Mark Furey**

Imagine what it might be like if those affected by crime could be part of a plan to work towards repairing the harm. What if there was a way for everyone to have a better understanding of the impact that a crime had on individuals and community?

We have that now in Nova Scotia's Restorative Justice Program.

This week, Nov. 18-24, marks Restorative Justice Week in Canada. A time to reflect on how our justice system is moving to be more open in dealing with crime and conflict.

We all know that crime can impact our safety, security and wellbeing. Crime can impact the lives of families and loved ones. Restorative justice re-

sponds by having those responsible for the crime to be part of a process to repair harm.

Every restorative justice case is different, however everyone impacted by the crime can be part of making things better. Restorative justice looks at why a crime occurred, how it impacts people and develops detailed actions that gets at the reasons why a crime occurred and helps address the hurt done.

For the past 20 years Nova Scotia has been taking a restorative approach in our justice system. Since the program was launched in 1999, more than 25,000 cases have gone through restorative justice. Evaluations have shown to reduce repeat offences by 12 per cent.

The key to our success is that many parts of the justice system have worked together. This includes police, the court system, the judiciary, public prosecution services, correctional services, the restorative justice agencies across the province and the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network. All these groups support restorative justice by working with all of those involved. This work leads to positive outcomes for healthier relationships and communities - things that benefit us all.

This success has led us to use a restorative approach in other ways outside of the justice system. We now use it in schools across the province and in the public inquiry for the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children.

As a province, we will continue to explore new and innovative ways to take a restorative approach to benefit all Nova Scotians. Nova Scotia's leadership in restorative justice is founded on one of greatest resources - people and communities that care about relationships.

**Mark Furey is Nova Scotia's Justice Minister**

## Community Development Report to Council

**Submitted by Crawford MacPherson, Director**

Most items that are reported to Council through the Directors report were covered during the Strategic Priorities Review sessions held in October. The following is a brief synopsis of Department activity.

### **Debert Business Park - Debert Signage and Branding**

Highway signage is to be upgraded by TIR at their own expense, as part of an upgrade of signage for Exit 13. The upgrades are expected to be conducted over the next two years as time and funding permits.

Staff are working with the signage company that upgraded the existing Debert signage to create Debert Business Park Signage that is visible from the highway. The intention is to have permits in place by year end.

### **Debert Airport**

As discussed at the Strategic Planning session, staff are arranging for Jerry Staples to present the findings in his "Realizing the Full Potential of Debert Airport" to Council.

### **Fundy Discovery Site (Palliser Redevelopment Project)**

Most of the 2018 construction projects have been completed including:

- Upgrade of highway signage;
- Construction of the new public washroom;
- Construction of Phase 1 of the playground;

### **Landscaping improvements;**

Raising of the dyke and construction of the riverside trail has started but halted due to soft conditions. Work will continue once there is frost in the ground.

Public Works is installing a catch basin to direct street water away from the washroom area. They are also undertaking site prep for an accessible walkway from the washroom and down to the playground.

Staff are preparing for the winter planning season and working with the Steering Committee in preparation for next year's budget, funding and construction seasons.

Once agreed to by the Committee, the 2019 workplan will be presented to Council.

### **Planning Applications:**

Staff and PAC are dealing with 4 development applications such as rezoning or development agreements.

Activity has picked up this year.

PAC held an initial discussion on dog kennels and a second meeting will be held on Tuesday the 13th.

### **Solar Colchester Initiatives**

#### **Community Solar PV Pilot Program**

The application for the RECC and Brookfield Sportsplex were approved under the NS Energy program.

#### **Residential Solar Colchester Program**

Staff have reviewed the proposals, submitted in response to the municipal RFP. An Action Item will be presented to Council at the Nov 15th Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **Recreation Services**

The Truro Heights playground will commence construction on the week of Nov 12th. Survey work has been completed to locate property corners and the power line easement. Site work will start along with offsite assembly of the equipment.

Planning and recreation staff are meeting on the second week of November to determine the size and location of the larger park for Truro Heights. There is a block of land for sale that could accommodate a larger park and the owner is willing to sell. Once an asking price is determined, a recommendation will be brought to Council.

The Shoreline Journal

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- 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  
Holiday Inn  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop
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The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) 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.

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EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198



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HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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