

REES' Pieces

No Albatross, PLEASE!

It's an upsetting time in North America. If you are in doubt there are a few ways you can check. Perhaps, easiest is to look around your neighbourhood, or scope out the remainder of the town. If you are paying attention, or focusing on scoping out the area, you will find that 55-70% of the people you observe will have a scowl on their face, their eyes are non-reflective, appear hollow and stare-like.

In some ways you could conclude they are an unhappy lot. Maybe even like a time-bomb on a short fuse looking for a source of ignition. Take a moment and step back, since Covid and the increase of texting many people don't talk. They are too intent on wearing out their thumbs on a cellphone keyboard.

Many a time you will see two people sitting at a table in a food court each texting as fast as they can. The shame of it is they are texting to each other. Outside at lunchtime, or after work have you notice people walking down the sidewalk that occasionally they run into a parking meter, or a utility pole? Yes, you can laugh or smile, but seriously where is humanity headed?

People are not happy. Look at the off-year elections in the USA held the first week in November, which normally elects the down line politician, from the occasional governor, sheriff, and other state elected positions. It's not just in the USA, it's a global movement. Canada is a bit slow on the uptake, but those level of anger and unrest will slowly migrate here.

We have some embryonic situations here in Colchester which might or could take hold like a prairie grass fire under certain circumstances.

Let's explore a before example. Nearly a decade ago, Colchester Council went out on the limb buying the Paliser property for nearly a million dollars with the vision to turn it into the Fundy Discovery Centre to be a key component to a fledging tourism industry along the Bay of Fundy. People weren't dancing in the streets, but took a wait and see attitude. Make the identical moves today and some would be run out of town before noon.

If bad news continues to evolve and things continue to go south the RECC could be the 2025/2026 equal to the Halifax Explosion. The owners, Colchester and Truro replaced the Board of Directors of the society which runs the RECC in May 2025.

The list of problems and concerns have continued to grow in 2025. Matt Moore, manager RECC, recently said the society's eligibility for COVID-19 relief funding is still under evaluation. In February, the two municipalities loaned the operator more than \$1.6 million to repay the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and accumulated interest.

The \$1.6-Million loan to pay Canada Revenue Agency is on top of the \$1.5-million operating grant the society received from Truro and Colchester in 2025. Not included in the list of money spent annually is the \$750,000 annual mortgage paid by each of Town of Truro and County of Colchester.

Coun. Nigel Leggett at the committee of the whole meeting on Oct. 16 said, "It was readily acknowledged that they were woefully underinsured," Leggett suggested the county explore the possibility of holding the insurance policy for the building.

The building's heating and cooling system also needs to be replaced. Blair said about \$650,000 is budgeted by both municipalities for the capital project. The centre posted a deficit of nearly \$91,000 for the fiscal year that ended last March 31. Its debt stood at almost \$1.3 million.

The RECC is a valuable asset to the town and county make no mistake about it. Other than hockey game, major concerts and trade shows, most members of various groups such as swimming, walking track and other health oriented clubs come from a small radius bounded by Salmon & North Rivers, Debert and Masstown.

With a slowing economy and if taxpayers in the outer reaches of the county get a bee in their bonnet feeling the \$1-Million per year provides little benefit the RECC is where they might decide "to kick ass". Let's hope it is not an ALBATROSS, although its exterior colour scheme is albratrossish.

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

OP-ED

(NOTE: The following is a statement from Scott Armstrong, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, in response to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision striking down mandatory minimum sentences for child pornography offences on Friday, Oct. 31.)

Friday's decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to strike down mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of child pornography offences is deeply troubling.

Minister's Statement on Supreme Court of Canada Decision

Nova Scotians should be able to expect that sentences for those who commit horrible crimes will protect the public, and not leave victims feeling more vulnerable.

Child pornography offences are not abstract or victimless. As a former school principal, I have seen firsthand the devastating harm that sexual exploitation of children can cause. These crimes cause deep and lasting harm to individuals, families, and communities both here at home and around the world. It can destroy lives, and in the

most tragic cases, it leads to devastating consequences.

This ruling raises serious questions about whether the punishments will truly reflect the severity of these offences and the pain they inflict. Mandatory minimum sentences send a clear message that exploiting children is among the most serious crimes, and will be treated that way.

I will be sharing Nova Scotia's grave concerns with my federal counterpart, Justice Minister Sean Fraser, and urging the federal government to

take action to ensure our justice system continues to protect the most vulnerable, particularly children and youth.

In the meantime, my department will continue to support police and prosecutors in their work to bring offenders to justice. Nova Scotians deserve a system that is compassionate, fair, and unrelenting in its commitment to public safety and the protection of our children.

Scott Armstrong is, Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

OP-ED

Premier Spoke at Boston Energy Conference

we have in Nova Scotia - our incredible natural resources, our skilled and educated workforce, and our focus on creating the right conditions for economic development and investment."

In addition to attending the energy conference while in Boston, the Premier is scheduled to meet with Bernadette Jordan, Consul General of Canada in Boston, as well as senior officials and business leaders in energy, offshore wind and natural gas.

New England, like many markets, is anticipated to have massive energy needs that could benefit from Nova Scotia's plan to construct offshore wind turbines.

On October 16, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator launched the overall process for the first call for bids to license offshore wind energy. The process starts with

prequalification for interested companies and a call for information that will inform the call for bids.

In 2024, Nova Scotia exports to the New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont) reached \$1.2 billion, and imports from this region were almost \$64 million. Mission delegates from the Province included Premier Houston; Nicole LaFosse Parker, Chief of Staff and General Counsel, Premier's Office; and Dave MacGregor, Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Energy.

The delegation were in Boston from November 18, to Thursday, November 20

Premier Houston is also Nova Scotia's Minister of Energy, Minister of Trade and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Premier Houston visited Heads of Alberta and Texas

Premier Tim Houston visited Calgary, Alberta, and Houston, Texas to discuss energy opportunities for the province in his first trip as energy minister. "I've been clear: I want to turn Nova Scotia into an energy powerhouse," said Premier Houston. "We can do that by learning from others and meeting with energy experts and leaders to explore the full range of clean energy solutions which can help meet the future energy needs of our province and other markets."

In Calgary, the Premier met with two industry associations. In Houston, the Premier met with energy companies and Susan Harper, the Consul General of Canada in Dallas.

Nova Scotia continues to make progress on the energy file in 2025: The Province signed a memorandum of understanding with Ontario to explore small modular reactor technology as a clean energy option.

On October 16, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator launched the offshore wind call-for-bids process, which starts with a call for information and a prequalification process for potential developers. This effort follows the strategic direction given to the regula-



tor by the federal and provincial governments.

In September, Prime Minister Mark Carney recognized Nova Scotia's Wind West project as one of national interest that could be further developed and considered by the new Major Projects Office as a nation-building project. That same month, the province passed the Powering the Offshore Act to update legislation related to offshore wind and tidal energy. The ban on hydraulic fracturing was also lifted to open up the opportunity to develop Nova Scotia's estimated seven trillion cubic feet of onshore natural gas.

In July, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator opened a call for bids for offshore petroleum exploration. It is an opportunity to explore 13 shallow and deep-water parcels that are rich with potential in and around the Sable Island area.

The Shoreline Journal

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Dominion Chair Factory Store
- BIBLE HILL:**
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
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- DEBERT:**
Debert Mini-Mart
- FIVE ISLANDS:**
Masstown Market Five Islands
- GLENHOLME:**
Double "C" Truckstop
- GREAT VILLAGE:**
Wilson's Gas
- MAITLAND:**
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MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)
- MILLBROOK:**
Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites
- NORTH RIVER:**
Grant's Grocery
- PARRSBORO:**
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Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave
- TRURO:**
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Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
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PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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