

REES' Pieces

Hollowing out

How many of us remember, as a child, planting a tree or finding a tree, which we nurtured to grow into a magnificent thing of beauty. Then one day maybe 40, 50 or 60 years later a gigantic windstorm uprooted the tree.

When the tree was being removed, we discovered the tree's centre was in a severe stage of decay. From the outside the tree had looked magnificent, but the centre was nothing but a hollow cavern.

An act of nature took the tree from us, but we learned the tree's time had come. It was gone before it lost its magnificent beauty. Even though it is no more, we are filled with fond memories.

As Nova Scotians we love our province as much as we loved our childhood tree. Through the years, we have grown up with its beauty; we have struggled together and have rejoiced in happier times. One of those happier times occurred decades ago, when then premier Gerald Regan held up a vial declaring "It's Oil". We speculated on riches and all of us would be driving a Volvo, which was then made in Nova Scotia.

As a coastal province far from the centre of perceived power and wealth of Upper Canada we fought, struggled, coped and got along. Most of us were land people, because we lived off the land. We cut the firewood, grew vegetables, caught fish, raised pork, beef and chickens, occasionally hunting for a treat of venison. We walked to school, helped repair the church and looked out for our neighbour.

We weren't rich in monetary terms, but we had wealth money can not buy. Similarly, we did not have a lot of debt. Yes, we owed, but small in comparison to today. Debt was obtained on a handshake, because we knew each other.

We had a few coins in our pocket, because we didn't need a security system or put locks on our doors. We were safe and we knew it. If someone was in trouble the community rallied to their support.

However, times have changed. We try to be brave and put on a good smile. We need to ask how solid is that strength? Are we solid through to the core?

Now it's security systems on house and property. We don't know our neighbours like we used to. Just like our childhood tree, we're in the hollowing out phase.

For almost as long as our tree flourished, rural Nova Scotia has been on the decline. The hollowing out of rural Nova Scotia started when one-room rural schools reached the endangered list and were eventually closed. Once we started bussing students to larger consolidated schools in other communities, the rate of growth and forward momentum of rural Nova Scotia started hitting speed bumps.

There's a significant difference in the delivery of services in the rural Vs urban saga. It's not just rural – urban, the real injustice is the favouritism shown to much larger metropolitan areas at the expense of towns, villages and rural areas.

The looming elephant in the room is the forthcoming changing of provincial election boundaries. We can see it coming. Within the next decade areas within 30-45 minutes of HRM's harbour bridges will have a majority of MLA seats.

If we currently think HRM is getting more than its share, just wait until the seats are realigned. To curtail the further hollowing out of Rural Nova Scotia, citizens best sit up and take notice. Whoever is in charge, best rally the troops. If something is not done rural areas will be just like our childhood tree – hollowed out and forgotten.

I am honoured to live in rural Nova Scotia. Look how people gathered together to raise \$16,000.00 in one afternoon for Holly Grue. Just before Christmas \$10,000 for Debert's Brian Esau. In June \$9,500 for Londonderry's 2 year old sweetheart, Maya MacDonald. Every dollar donated went to the funds. Everything was donated.

I challenge HRM residents to do better. I challenge them to be able to say, there were no expenses. 100% of donations went into the fund.

Let's take our children by the hand and help them plant a childhood tree.

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 Maurice:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS), I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent coverage of the Nova Scotia wild blueberry industry in past issues of the Shoreline Journal, and especially, the January 2012 issue highlighting the WBPANS Annual General Meeting.

Our Association recognizes Reporter, Linda Harrington for her valuable contribution attending our WBPANS meetings, field days and tours for International visitors from Japan, Korea, United Kingdom and covering the wild blueberry industry.

Again, special thanks to the Shoreline Journal for a job well done.

Sincerely,
David M. Sangster, M.Sc., P.Ag
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Rees,

On behalf of the Home and School Association and students of Great Village Elementary School, I would like to extend a since thank-you for your continued support of our Christmas raffle by offer a subscription to your community newspaper as a prize. Funds raised through the raffle are used to support a variety of school activities. The raffle draws are made immediately following our Christmas concert and the results printed in the school newsletter. This year's lucky winner of the subscription to the Shoreline Journal was Mable Loughhead.

On another note, we appreciate Linda Harrington's commitment to our school. She makes every effort to attend events as requested and contributes an informative article each month describing activities at the

school. Students look forward to seeing their photos in the Shoreline Journal and we appreciate receiving the copy you provide to our school.

Thank you again, and best wishes for the New Year

Sincerely,
Connie Smith, Principal

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is cheque to renew my subscription to the Shoreline. I enjoy it very much and look forward to each copy, as well as passing it on to other Nova Scotians. All the best for a successful 2012

Jean Joy
Don Mills, ON

Dear Maurice:

Thank you so much for the \$25.00 Gift Certificate at Bayside Pharmacy, as one of the winners in the subscription renewal contest conducted by the Shoreline Journal.

Sincerely, Hazel Hill.

Banner Year for Parrsboro Band Hall

By Trish Burke

2011 was a very successful year for activities of the Parrsboro Band Association and the renovation projects which the board of directors had undertaken. Due to the wonderful support of the people of South Cumberland.

"The hall" had several great concerts, six Open Mikes during the winter, several fundraisers, practices of the Parrsboro Citizens' Band, Jr. Band, Elastic Big Band and practices of the Hooligans Rough Band, Kids movies, adult movies and five Wednesday Presentations as well as International Artists day.

The 1st annual Film Festival in October proved to be very popular. There were several rentals as well as a reception after the Santa Clause Parade, free film after the tree lighting, rounding off a great year for the Band Assoc.

On the renovation side, curtains and mini blinds were put on the windows in the auditorium, painting completed, new sound and lighting system, plumbing retrofit, furnace duct work changed, painting of the western and driveway side of the building.

The best project was the installation of an accessible washroom on the main level

and ramp on the exterior from support of the Province of NS and the great supporters of all of our fundraisers. There is lots more to do. Please come and support one of our fundraisers and check for yourself.

Open Mic has returned to the hall for the winter and is held the 1st and 3rd Fri. Night at "the hall" on King Street in Parrsboro at 7 pm.

Donations appreciated at the door, 50/50 draw and a door prize given out. Musicians welcome. Call Rob Bentley at 254-4669 for details.

Patricia Burke is Facilities Chair,
Parrsboro Band Association.

Clifton 4-H Club Participates in County Skate

By Taylor Masters
Club Reporter

On December 23rd, there was a county skate at the Colchester legion stadium from 6-8 pm for all 4-H members in Colchester County and their families. From 6-7, members and their families could enjoy skating in the stadium. From 7-8 there was cookies and refreshments upstairs in the stadium. All members were asked to bring a donation to the food bank when they came.

On January 3rd, the Clifton 4-H club had their 4th general meeting, the first one of the year 2012. At the meeting, the topic of club rally was brought up. Members were

reminded to start to think about their speeches and demos and begin to write them. The club rally is an annual thing and is a speaking competition between the members. The members who win top junior and senior speeches and top junior and senior double and solo demos will proceed onto the next level, which is the county level for all of Colchester County.

The Winding River Art Gallery in Stewiacke NS is making their gallery space available to 4-H members to hold an art show. There will be framed art of all sorts, drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, collage, rug

hooking, leatherwork and much more. Here, 4-H members will have a chance to show off their talent and sell some of their art work. The art

How is YOUR Daily Diet?

By Chris Urquhart

How is your daily diet? Do you eat healthy? Are you over weight? Under weight? Depressed? Did you know that there are healthy foods which can help you to have an overall healthy life?

Here are 10 foods that are rich in vitamins and essential nutrients, and better yet, they're easy to find in local stores. Add two or three to

show will be held February 17-19, 2012. The opening night will be on the 17th, 7pm-9pm., and open on Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th from 10am -5pm.

your grocery list and enjoy.

Check out these 10 great health foods: 1. Almonds. 2. Apples. 3. Blueberries. 4. Broccoli. 5. Red beans. 6. Salmon. 7. Spinach. 8. Sweet potatoes. 9. Vegetable juice. 10. Wheat germ.

Eat better, feel better, look better.

That's all it takes. All are readily available at your local supermarket.

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.

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: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.50 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$45.00
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 any 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.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities. 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.



NEWSPAPERS ATLANTIC
TRUSTED | CONNECTED | TARGETED



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)

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