

REES' Pieces

McNeil seems liked by those of many stripes.

On the way home from a Municipal Council presentation session, I was hyped by all the possibilities. Granted there is much wrong and negative in the world, the Middle East is devouring itself, Paris under attack, Belgium having problems with militants determined to wreak havoc on anything that smells, looks or feels like Western Culture which follows the United States standards. Canada and many other countries have been warned, they are coming for us.

However, I was hyped because there is so much positive in Nova Scotia, particularly in Colchester. Provincially we have big deficits, an underperforming economy, high taxes, and if we don't have something to complain about, we can always talk about the weather.

Regardless, we have peace and tranquility, governments which are not corrupt; trying to persuade us they are taking their lumps for trying to make a better place for us to work, live and play.

You might inquire, what has happened in the last couple of weeks, to cause a positive feeling? For starters, our winter has not been that bad, even though temperatures can rise or fall 20 degrees in 24 hours. Gasoline prices are down and it costs about \$30.00 less to fill up the van each week.

Beyond that was Premier McNeil's address at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast. It was not just in what he said, but the way he interacted with attendees in a very sincere, honest way. Many there, even those of opposite political stripe, remarked they liked what he said and hope he can achieve what he focused on doing.

The night before was the Colchester Council meeting with things seemingly going along quite well. From all reports Colchester is one of the better performing municipalities in the province. That in itself is positive.

However, the pinnacle of the positive axis was Municipal Council's presentation session on Tuesday, January 20th, when three groups made presentations. First was Ms. Bower from Scotia Pool who reported the pool society has completed a lease agreement with the province; efforts of staff and volunteers, operations have been improved. Although not finalized, councillors seemed to feel comfortable about releasing the remaining budgeted \$50,000 to the society and were not overly negative on the society's request for \$100,000 operational funding and \$25,000 for capital allocations in the next budget year.

The second presentation was from the Chamber of Commerce outlining their vision for regional economic development for all Colchester County areas. The partnership is modelled after Moncton and Halifax, differing from CoRDA in that 52 county businesses have committed \$87,000 over the three years. Stewiacke and Millbrook have committed to \$15,000 each over three years, and Town of Truro is onside with \$105,000 over three years. Colchester Municipality is being asked for \$195,000 for three years. Truro and the Municipality are being asked to cover the salary of their Economic Development officers, who would work under an Executive Director. A nine member board, comprised of one representative from each municipality and five business people is proposed. The presentation was received with staff to report to council at a later meeting.

The third and most interesting presentation was lead by Wayne Wamboldt, from the municipality's Kemptown Balefill facility who introduced Endurance Wind with a proposal for one or two 50 KW small wind turbines in a 20 year contract under the province's COMFIT program. Financial projections, even if financed at 100%, one turbine would show a profit of \$3,946.00 each year for the first 12 years; two turbines \$13,808 each of the first 12 years. Once the turbines were amortized over 12 years, the remaining eight years of the contract would see annual profits at \$62,256 for one turbine or \$128,911 for two turbines.

It's comforting to see a Colchester staffer driving an initiative, which could net the municipality \$1,405,473 (1 turbine) or \$2,738,675 (2 turbines) over a 20 year period.

If council can see it's way to approve, such a project, why not install three or four turbines? Create profits so the municipality can use some of the proceeds as incentives to fill up Debert Industrial Park creating hundreds or thousands of jobs.

What would you do?

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Hello Maurice,

After going back and reading the December Ken's Corner again, I cannot see where there is a competition between the Great Village Legion and Veteran's Memorial park in Bass River on Remembrance Day when

he said, quote, This brings me to wonder out loud why Bass River found it necessary to hold its parade at the same time as Great Village, unquote.

It was always that the service would be held on the eleventh hour of the eleventh

day of the eleventh month and that is what Bass River was doing, no, there is no competition just observing what the day is for, OUR VETERANS.

They shall grow not old as we who are left grow, age shall not weary them nor the

years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Sincerely
Jim Chipman
Bass River

CCRSB seeking nominations for Provincial Education Week Awards

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) is seeking nominations for educators who exemplify the Provincial Education Week 2015 theme: Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. The nomination

deadline is Friday, February 20, 2015.

This year, Provincial Education Week will be celebrated from April 19-25. Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors., focuses on honouring educators who work to support student development by engaging the community through service learning, community projects and co-operative education. It also acknowledges the important role that local and regional community organizations play in quality public education.

The CCRSB regional Education Week Committee, consisting of NSTU Local representatives, elected Board members and CCRSB central office staff, will consider all nominations.

One name will be selected from each of the three NSTU locals within the Board, and those individuals will be recommended to the Provincial Education Week Committee.

The Provincial Education Week Awards nomination form is available on the CCRSB website at www.ccrsb.ca.



ccrsb.ca

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Four Areas of Early Intervention to be Addressed

Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey announced on January 20th, the government will address four key areas of early intervention to improve services to children and their families. The improvements begin immediately.

The four areas are: Improving access to early intervention for families; Strengthening early intervention programs across the province; Supporting and developing the early intervention workforce and aligning early intervention programs with the early years system and the public school system.

Early intervention programs in Nova Scotia deliver services for young children who are diagnosed with, or are at risk of, developmental delay. The services are designed to help both the

child and the family from the time the child is born, to when they are old enough to enter school.

The programs also help parents access the resources they need to assist their children. There are more than 300 children waiting for services.

"With this new approach and these actions, government is following through with its promise to increase support for early intervention programs across Nova Scotia and addressing the waitlist some families are experiencing," said Ms. Casey. "Adding more early interventionists is only the beginning."

"Over the next three years we will improve how early intervention programs work in Nova Scotia to make sure that our children and their families are receiving the support they need, when they

need it and in their local community."

The department plans to work with First Nations, African Nova Scotian, Acadian and immigrant communities to ensure they are aware of the services that are available. By working with local service providers, children will be referred as early as possible so they receive the services they need, when they need them.

Over the next few weeks, a team appointed by the minister will be developing a recommendation for a new governance structure. Once the new structure is in place, the department will provide funding to help address low wages for early interventionists.

The Early Intervention Program Review: Recommendations and Actions, can be found at www.novascotia.ca/education

School is in session... DRIVE CAREFULLY

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) 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.

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