

# REES' Pieces

## Revolution 2018

Late last fall a long range weather forecast suggested Eastern Canada, particularly Nova Scotia would be milder this winter and instead of an abundance of snow, we'd get milder fluctuating temperatures, with possibility of freezing rain due primarily to a warmer Gulf Stream.

Early in January with several days of frigid cold weather we were in tune with the rest of Canada, with many provinces setting many coldest days of the year records. One day I thought the early fall milder weather forecast was out the window.

However, things have changed. Temperatures are milder, and the southern part and Eastern Nova Scotia sure have been getting their fair share of freezing rain. Cumberland and Colchester have been spared freezing rain. Although we have had lots of rain, winds continued after the rain stopped so we avoided major icy road conditions.

2018 is the year to realize we can get storms in other ways. Normally, we think of a tsunami something that follows an earthquake, with coastal countries crippled with property destruction and loss of life. However, in North America it's been a different storm affecting USA and Canada. Not even "lil ole" Nova Scotia has been spared.

In case you are wondering what I am building up to, it's Revolution 2018. We got a preview of it in fall of 2017, when more women started coming forward with allegations of sexual, personal and workplace harassment. Remember Howard Weinstein, then a tidal wave that resulted in some of USA's most prominent actors, media hosts and politicians resigning or being fired.

This was followed by several women renewing their complaints about now President Donald Trump. Several movie and show awards have fanned the flames. The #MeToo movement has gained strength. More women coming forward has given confidence to others to take the plunge. My observation is a lot of hesitation to speak out occurred, as we watched defense lawyers practically destroy the reputation and life of a rape victim.

Once sensitivity training for judges and legal community happened things changed. It took Oprah Winfrey and others to speak out and "give a breath of hope".

Just this weekend, a billionaire casino executive, who also was serving as the chief fundraiser for the Republicans and a friend of Trump; then Chief of Staff for Marco Rubio was fired within 24 hours.

For years many have felt those in power rich business executives or powerful politicians were equally as guilty but no one was coming forward.

In the reality of life Nova Scotia's weather comes up along the New England seaboard. I don't know if confidence for women came in on one of the storms with high winds and turbulent tides, but Nova Scotia was caught up in the same situation, then it quickly spread to Queens Park, Toronto and the House of Commons.

On Wednesday, January 24th, Jamie Baillie quickly resigned as PC leader and Cumberland South MLA. Within hours it was revealed sexual harassment of a much younger female intern in the Party office lead to his downfall: next day the leader of the PC's in Ontario, followed by a minister in Trudeau's cabinet.

Or course these will not be the last revelations. If it has been going on for decades, we have only seen a tip of the iceberg. I predict more announcements for the next few months.

Instead of being upset each time we turn on the news, we should be thankful abused people are finally getting the strength to come forward. Donald Trump had the slogan, "Clean out the Swamp", which we must now embrace, We need to rid society of such activity and soon.

If someone comes forward we should embrace them with kindness and support. In fact, if anyone knows of such activity, encourage the victims to speak out or take action to make it happen.

I don't care who or where they are, but we must expose these people and treat everyone properly. If you know anyone who claims to be a victim, show them support and help them come forward.

This activity is unacceptable in government, business or life in general.

Maurice

## OP-ED

### 2018 Predictions From a Fishermen

By Darren Porter

After royal proclamation The Marine Renewable Act will be seen as if it was designed to open up Nova Scotia waters to tidal development. The 2017 changes cemented that purpose form the already approved testing site Force.

It will be seen that the marine renewable act transfers power from the Feds to the Province (NS Energy) of the tidal waters around Nova Scotia in this regard. This could be an infringement of Mi\_kmaw rights under section 35 of the charter.

We still have not received the answers promised by FORCE that fish will avoid these in-stream turbines. People will start noticing this is all about demonstrating industry, not determining if they are or are not environmental impacts.

Also, I think they have their players picked for the first 10 megawatts one being Big Moon Tidal, which is seen, fishermen, as a positive in many ways. The company, to date, appears to have human approach to fishers, First Nations and Coastal Community's.

They are willing to compromise with fishers and already have. Their Technology is ecologically responsible. Although, without their respon-

sible approach it could have displaced a lot of fishers.

The second player which, I predict, the Government is bringing in through the back door, virtually unnoticed, is Jupiter Hydro, I think it is possible they intend to put them beside the FORCE site. The fact they are not making them go the route of Big Moon (working in the communities) makes one cautious as to why not? It's almost as if Big Moon Power is being used by government as a smoke screen unbeknownst to them.

Word on the street is Hatch Engineering has or is buying out Jupiter (tax right off) as happened with so many of these company's including Open Hydro /DCNS/ Navel Group/ supposedly. A small scale test site will emerge.

Down in Digby they will force out Fundy Tidal Inc, to bring in big player, or wait Fundy Tidal Inc out until next December when they can get rid of them. It will transfer from a COMFIT project to FIT project. Big tidal power players around the world will fall in 2018 as some governments won't be willing to continue dumping the tax payer monies into them.

I think Open Hydro is done, or near done. 70 people layed off worldwide; their tur-

bines pulled out of the water, in different counties. Word is their Technology is not working out. It produces its own electric field which creates galvanic reactions (promoting corrosion).

Another name to watch for is Scott Renewables. The province is likely going to clean a bit of house on the FORCE site by December 2018. You may see some births change over, because of inactivity. Or, you will see a public relations movement (smoke screens) of birth holders at FORCE pretending they are making progress. Similar to what you just saw with Black Rock Tidal. Officially no real movement. Only in media.

Annapolis Royal Tidal Power Generating Station may fall as it's living proof environmental effects of this tidal industry will not be addressed regardless of how bad these effects are.

Mary McPhee leaving FORCE is the wild card. FORCE will have to make changes in true public relations and perhaps management because of her departure.

Big Moon perhaps will deploy, but only if the hard core FORCE followers within the bureaucracy allow it. To the bureaucracy, Big Moon is a

silent disruptive player in this industry. Big Moon's approach to people is positive and their technology not environmentally damaging. Big Moon is not in "the old boys club" and their different approach scares those who have invested years into the FORCE scheme and forcing this industry on the stakeholders and coastal communities.

McNeil will step in and make positive changes to how FORCE deals with those it directly affects, and clean up some of the "old boys club" allowing a semi new more positive approach to this industry before it implodes on itself.

The above is not claimed to be anything than some predictions from a fishermen.

**Darren Porter, a weir fisherman from Bramber Hants County, has studied and is a vocal spokesperson supporting fishers and the environment concerning tidal power initiatives in Nova Scotia.**

### Understanding Province's Fiscal Health

By Maurice Rees

Getting Nova Scotians to understand the fiscal health of the province is one of the greatest challenges as Minister of Finance according to Karen Casey in a recent interview. With regard to what the province is doing and preparing its annual budget, she said she hopes Nova Scotians will look at the entire picture, and just as with themselves with personal budgets, "don't live beyond your means".

She said the government has to make tough decisions and constantly work to improve the economic climate. She pointed out for the first time in decades, Premier McNeil's Liberal government has been able to deliver two balanced budgets. Even though the surplus is small, it is pointing us in the right direction, which is being received favourably by bank economists and bond rating agencies.

As part of preparing the upcoming budget, Casey says the finance department provides an outline of where the province is heading, how it hopes to arrive there and includes various assumptions based on global activity and what rev-



enues are anticipated. This outline is then submitted to the chief economists for the country's six largest banks.

After the economists have opportunity to review, a tele-conference is held to review the province's financial outline.

Casey indicated the tele-conference was held the week of January 8th and with great success. Her take from participating in the conference, all six economists looked favourably on the province's financial outline noting the province was one to two who were able to deliver a balanced budget two years in a row. She also indicated that last year Standard & Poors, the bond rating agency improved the province's rating based on financial performance over the last couple of years.

During the interview, we also touched upon faster and better internet service for West Colchester and Casey's ongoing support for

West Colchester Community Development Association (WCCDA). She was totally aware a new group of volunteers had embarked on a 12 month process to revitalize WCCDA and to move forward to work with the various communities in West Colchester to create opportunities for economic improvements.

Although she was already aware, I brought her up to date on Annapolis County council's April 2017 initiative to borrow \$13.8-Million to go along with funding from Ottawa and Halifax to proceed with and \$18+ Million project to deliver fiber speed internet throughout the county.

Added to the discussion was Municipality of Colchester's June 2017 decision to proceed with a \$9,000 internet study, but the study was not completed by the November 2017 deadline and a completion date has not been established.

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