

# REES' Pieces

## Climate change?

Before I get into the this month's topic of "What is happening to our weather?" I need to make few comments about last month's column about "Anti-incumbent electorate".

The reaction was interesting. All those who mentioned it agreed totally with me, that the electorate is angry. A few suggested that the lingering and extremely slow recovery of the economy will continue to play an important role in what happens in the voting booths.

With the recent increase given to Nova Scotia Power, the electorate is even more upset, so much so, they are hiding their anger and are expected to release their frustrations at the ballot boxes. One of the major problems the public has is they don't feel the various levels of government are being "totally forthright in their actions and the way they deliver messages, good or bad.

There's a growing level of concern that "hidden agendas" dominate every political decision. I don't want to keep harping about how the disregard for politicians continues to grow. However, I will say it will take several years before everyone is simmered down.

Now onto our weather. Last month everyone was talking about the unusually high volumes of rain we have been getting, and how the weather patterns seem to have changed. Last winter was a snowless one, and this year, we seem to be heading to a shorter one again. Who would believe that in the second week of December we would have temperatures in the high teens?

The summer was warm and for the most part without a lot of rain. Fall was beautiful and seems to have gotten extended by a few weeks. Not that I mind warmer temperatures in November and December, but these temperatures really seem to upset nature's balance. With the tropical like temperatures, we also get what happens in the tropics..... Rain, wind and more rain and wind. While Atlantic Canadians are smiling all the way to the bank for not having to turn on the furnace, London Ontario area gets 144cm of snow in less than 72 hours. Just think of the problems of getting a winter's total snowfall in less than 3 days.

On the week before Christmas, England and many European countries are closing airports due to massive snowfall. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Heathrow airport was not accepting any arrivals and was permitting only 6 departures.

Back to Nova Scotia, we get massive winds that wrecked havoc with falling trees on power lines and many homes suffering roof damage. What was different was that most of the wind came from an entirely different direction. We occasionally get high winds from the Southwest but not so vicious for such a long time.

The damage was so widespread that by the weekend of December 18<sup>th</sup>, it was almost impossible to buy roofing tar or Wet Patch in the town of Truro. Insurance adjusters, contractors and building supply outlets have been going full tilt.

Right now we are thinking about the physical damage, but if the weather patterns are definitely changing and out season are out of sync with what we normally expect, we have to wonder what else is going to happen.

Those to deal with land erosion are particularly concerned about what will happen over the next decade. Not only are we going to see a lot more erosion, but we are particularly vulnerable to massive flooding. The dykes are in bad repair, but with rising water levels, they are not high enough. It's suggested most dyked areas will have to be raised four to five feet over the next 20 years.

The concern is so great winter rocking in vulnerable areas is ongoing. It has to be done in the winter, when the frost is in the ground.

Getting temperatures consistently in the 17-18 range at this time of year, is easy on our heating costs, but there are many other areas, whereby we will pay. Heavy rains, higher winds, and if it all comes when the tides are at their highest, we could be in for devastation like we have never seen before. Look at all the flooding in New Brunswick, Cape Breton and Newfoundland.

Repairing the infrastructure will create employment, but it will also hit us hard in our pocketbooks. Higher taxes, when the government goes to pay for the repairs and higher insurance premiums, when the insurers get done calculating how much money they need to recover after paying out for all those damages.

It not going to be a fun time.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
**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*  
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**Dear Editor:**

I have been reading with interest and confusion, the comments by people from Great Village about the Remembrance day service. I attend the service every year, and my family has a background in the military.

I assure you that this feeling, of leaving half the road open for traffic is disrespectful, is NOT the feeling of all the people, and I am willing to go on the record and say not even the feeling of the majority. I have grown up around military life. The children in my family lay a wreath every year.

I would consider my father one of the most staunch supporters of the Remembrance Day service, and the respect that should be properly paid at this time of year. All these people and most others I have talked to believe that although it may have needed better logistics, it was a proper and positive compromise.

I would like to rebut any "claims" I have heard on this "problem". First, the safety. Standing on the road is inherently unsafe at all times. Not to mention it is illegal.

Would the people who dislike this compromise prefer if the RCMP simply told them that they could not stand on the road at all, and would have to find somewhere else. That would be totally in their rights and would be following the law. As far as unsafe to children, it is no more unsafe than simply walking down the roadside. It was not overly crowded, as where I was standing there was plenty of room for many more people.

Most people choose to stand in groups and socialize, and that is their prerogative, but to claim that they were crowded is ludicrous. My children were there, and I considered them as safe as ever at a service while standing on the road. But the true question is in the event of an emergency, people standing on the road could cost precious minutes that might not be afforded.

If an emergency vehicle needed through, it would take quite a bit of time to move all the people who previously were standing on the road, and this could be serious. I myself would not want a loved one's life to hang in the balance while trying to move a group of people with a false sense or respect off the road.

I also read that there was never a problem with emergency vehicles before. I have seen emergency vehicles lose time before, and thankfully it was not a serious emergency. But I guess people are content waiting till something happens before they fix the problem. But rest assured, the first time that happens, the road will be considered totally off limits from then on. But I guess it is simply human nature to be reactive as opposed to proactive.

Now the disrespect. If these people equate blocking a road with respect, then, as I stated above, perhaps their idea of true respect is slightly skewed. I would be willing to say without a doubt, that if you ask almost any veteran if blocking a road at a Remembrance Day service is what they fought for, you would get a resounding NO.

You do not need to block a road to remember. You do not need to block a road to wear a poppy. You do not need to block a road to visit a veteran and say thank you. These are respect. Blocking a road for a hour a year and forgetting the rest is not respect at all.

One comment I read in a letter to the editor summed it up pretty well. "Once a year we are asked to stop and pay respect for those who gave so much for us, so we can live as freely as we do.....". Now think about this for a second and hopefully people will see the inherent flaw in this attitude as relating to respect.

Now the noise. I can say without question, that if the noise of a car bothered you during the service, then maybe you are overly sensitive. And just for the readers knowledge, I saw exactly 0 cars going through the main drag during the service. Which adds to the overly sensitive hypothesis.

I also read somewhere that people considered the RCMP officers unfriendly. Very little is needed to rebut this, but a "get over it". There are unfriendly people in the world, and the RCMP are there to do a job. Not make friends. Kinda like war perhaps.

Men and women fought for our rights and freedoms. I would like to ask, where does it say in the Bill of Rights that your right to an illegal use of the roadway supersedes another individual's legal right to use the roadway as it was intended.

I have yet to hear any argument against letting cars through which is remotely reasonable, or cannot be filed under "I just do not like it".

In closing, although I do appreciate that people are allowed to have their own opinion (even if they are wrong), please do not pass this off as the people of Great Village's, or possibly even the majority's opinion. Most I have talked to believe that although it could have been implemented better, it was a good effort.

**Sincerely**  
**Troy Spencer**  
**Great Village**

*May the best of the Season be with you and your family during this precious time of the year.*

## The Shoreline Journal

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