

REES' Pieces

2011 Review (or Rearview Mirror)

The year 2011 has had so many twists and turns it's almost impossible to pinpoint the most important event(s), and makes it even more difficult to determine which way 2012 is headed. Some of 2011's events might seem trivial now, but in 10 years may be perceived as the thing which mattered the most.

If I was to suggest the most important events, it would be a combination of "people power" in the mid-east; near collapse of the European economy and lack of growth of the American economy as it hovers at near recession levels. All three have significant impacts upon Canada.

After decades of Mid-East and northern African dictatorships "people power" did not really exist until social media became unstoppable. Facebook, texting, smartphones, and tweeting enabled the young to communicate to an outside world expressing opposition to their plight.

With many of their families and friends having emigrated to "more" democratic countries their message became headlines elsewhere. The more public opinion gravitated to their side, the braver they became. As a result demonstrations became vogue. With millions demonstrating, hard line rulers were unable to stop the unrest. The rest is history.

People, in these countries, placed their own safety and lives on the line. After gaining support from colleagues and the masses they achieved success. The Egyptian government collapsed. 40 years of cruel dictatorship caused the UN to take action leading to the downfall of Khadafi's regime. Unrest is growing elsewhere. These successes has instilled confidence in others who are unhappy.

United States and Canada residents are not known as a society to take to the streets, except in small local situations. Citizen unrest in the mid-east, gave birth to the OCCUPY movement in New York voicing opposition to corporate greed. It soon moved to Canada, including Halifax.

At first the general public seemed uninspired, but the key message "1%" and "99%" has developed traction. The OCCUPY tents have been dismantled, but the seeds of discontent are lingering and gaining strength everyday.

In Nova Scotia, HRM's concert funding fiasco; HRM's frequent "in camera" meetings developed a perception of lack of transparency; the constant appearance by Emera and Nova Scotia Power before the Public Utilities Board for rate increases is causing many more to become disenchanted. Business owners are unhappy with the passing of "First Contract" legislation. Michelin, Sobeys, Clearwater Fine Foods and the multi-thousand members of CFIB say it makes Nova Scotia unattractive for investment.

I'm not suggesting Nova Scotians are going to demonstrate enmasse, as did the mid-easterners. Unhappiness about everything which is forced upon the taxpayer is becoming more visible and a louder topic in the coffee meetings.

I was surprised when two respected small business owners in Colchester North recently told me, "At first I was unimpressed with OCCUPY, but now I see their point of the 1%. Everything governments do is at the peril of small business and the rural economy".

My second point is Canada is going to be significantly affected by the downturn in Europe. Our exports will be reduced; tourism from those countries is sure to plummet and financial instability will cause the markets and financial institutions to pull in their horns.

The American economy is going to continue to sputter and underperform until it is overhauled. The USA has to stop the flagrant use of its military strength to solve global situations. It appears, they strike out at other countries in an effort to obtain rights to energy and to weaken other economies as a means to strengthen their own. Their invasion of Iraq a decade ago has created many enemies, who quietly and collectively will do anything they can to bring America to its knees.

Canada needs to develop it's own identity, reach out to others, expand its export markets and demonstrate it is not in the "back pocket" of our friends south of the border. All levels – federal, provincial and municipal officials best start listening to, consulting with and heed the advice of its small and large business executives, or we may face our own version of the Arab Spring.

It will take the traditional tenacity of Maritimers to survive 2012 unblemished. We can do it, we just need to use our own resolve.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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To the Editor:

On behalf of the committee of organizers of Brian Esau's Recovery Group fundraiser, I wanted to say a heartfelt thank-you for your generosity of supplying us with the means to have an article published in the December issue of "The Shoreline Journal". This certainly helped us get the word out there and judging by the numbers that showed up to show their support, "The Shoreline Journal's" "article" reached out and touched a lot of people. The New/Gift subscription donations were very much appreciated as well, it helped to contribute to the overall success of the evenings events.

It was heartwarming to see and realize that community and Christmas spirit does live on in the hearts of so many Debert and area residents. To quote one of our organizers, Heather Ward, "...be proud of what you have done to make another person's life better...".

A lot of work was done by a lot of people who really care for and wanted to help Brian in some significant way, and we have done that. However, we are not done yet. There will be more things to come in the New Year!

Merry Christmas to all,
Betty Jennings

November 25, 2011
Dear Maurice;

In the spring of this year I gave a talk to the Great Village Historical Society monthly meeting regarding a manuscript we had acquired at the Truro Society, written by Captain Wilbur Johnston, a mariner who was born in Great Village in 1854. He lived a full and adventurous life with several careers, including a stint in the Canadian Army in the 1st War, when he joined claiming the age of 45 years, when he was actually 59 years old. At about the age of 70, and living in Hollywood, California, he produced for his family, the story of his early life in Great Village and his years as a Master Mariner. Over several years, we have researched his life, with the aim of publishing his manuscript as a book. We knew a great deal about him, and his children, but could find no living direct descendant. As was her custom, Linda Shears the Great Village Society secretary gave an account to your paper of the meeting and my contribution to it.

Very quickly, she had an enquiry from Wilbur's granddaughter, who lived in Arizona. Linda passed it on to me, I contacted the granddaughter in Arizona, and a wealth of new information has or will be exchanged. "THE POWER OF THE WORD"

Regards, Dick Akerman,
Colchester Archives Volunteer

Dear Editor:

Just wanted to "Thank You" for advertising our Great Village Jam sessions this past year. Our last Jam session for 2011 was December 11th. We will start 2012 off on January 15th, 2012. We will send you an email 2 weeks prior to that date.

I want to wish you all a very Happy Holiday & Happy New Year. We hope 2012 brings you all nothing but the Best.

Thanks again
George Linkletter & Family
Great Village Masonic Lodge

Attn Linda Harrington:

I have heard many comments regarding your article about Brian Esau in the Shoreline and just wanted to let u know that both I and others think that your article was extremely well written. U did an excellent job with the article.

Sincerely, Laurel Hiebert

Editor

I am enclosing cheque to renew a gift subscription. Enjoy the journal very much. Keep up the good work.

Marion McLeod, Valley, NS

Dear Linda:

There is a misprint on the name of one of the picture's, fourth picture with the caption Harold Lewis with his mother Ruth, WWII. It should be Harold Eagles with his mother Ruth, WWII

Merton V Eagles
(Note: Mr Eagles who submitted the photos, is referring to the WWI & WWII photos published on Page 3 of the December 2011 issue).

Hi Maurice

A few comments I'd like to express. We recently held a semi-annual meeting of the West Colchester Minor Hockey Association in Debert. In attendance were twenty people. Of those twenty people twelve were members of our Minor Hockey Executive.

We have 187 players registered in our association which should involve upwards to 350 parents. Where are they? We hear lots of grumbling about the costs associated with hockey. With this many people involved we could easily cut our costs to next to nothing though fundraising efforts.

To quote our hard working, dedicated President, Dave Allaby... Who are you? A watcher, a whiner or a worker? Please remember that many hands make light work..... get involved with your kids....you'll have fun! Let's make our upcoming Annual Kohler Friendship Tournament the best yet.

Regards, Stacey Culgin,
Treasurer, W.C.M.H.A.

To the Editor

First of all, I love the Shoreline Journal, it is very informative and keeps people up to date on events that are taking or have taken place in the community.

The latest edition left me a little upset however. The Great Village and Area Notes written by Florence Adams hit a note close to home. The paragraph referring to Kenneth Smith and family moving from their former home (the old Presbyterian Manse), and I quote: "The old building has been destroyed and the wreckage removed IMPROVING THE LOOK OF THE STREET...".

Improving the look of the street???? My grandparents (Ken and Irene Smith) moved to that house in the early 50's. It became the home of my mother and all her brothers and sisters. It was the place where we all got together as a family. It was where my cousins, my sister and I spent our summer days while Nanny took care of us. It was full of laughter, tears, and memories.

My earliest and best memories are of that house. Christmas Eve was always spent at that house and Christmas Dinner was always held in that house. The decision to demolish the old house was not an easy one for my Grandfather to make, and it was hard on the family to see it come down. It really angers me that someone's FAMILY home coming down IMPROVES the look of Station Road.

To some, yes it was an old building ~ to the family it was memories. Perhaps Mrs. Adams should remember this the next time she decides to comment on "improving the looks of Station Road"

Sincerely, Sue Sharpe

Dear Editor:

November 6 to 12 marks National Seniors Safety Week and doctors in Nova Scotia encourage all senior residents to prepare their homes in an effort to prevent injury.

Every year, one in three Canadian seniors will fall at least once. About 20 per cent of injury-related deaths among seniors can be traced back to a fall. It's important that you prepare your home so that it's safe to move around in, limiting your chances of falling and injuring yourself.

Changes that are part of the normal aging process, such as declining vision, hearing, sense of touch or smell and bone density can increase the risk of injury. Injuries are concerning for seniors because as the body ages, it takes longer to heal and recover.

Making simple alterations to your home can reduce your chances of acquiring injuries. It's important to recognize what the potential hazards are, take precau-

tions and make adjustments.

There are simple and effective ways to prepare your home for safety. Ensure there is an outdoor light at each entrance to your house, have secure railings on staircases, remove rugs and mats to keep from tripping, install a seat at the entrance of your home to put on and remove shoes. It's also a good idea to have a non-slip surface in the tub or shower, a night light in the bathroom and grab bars anchored to the wall in the bathtub or shower to help establish balance.

Doctors know that healthy living and physical activity are critical to seniors' good health and well being. It's important to equip your home with safety features that help to keep you strong and active. For more information, visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/life-vie/fp-pc-eng.php>.

Sincerely,, John Chiasson, BSc, MD
President, Doctors Nova Scotia
www.doctorsns.com

The Shoreline Journal

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