

PAGE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

the face of a Canadian banknote, the Famous Five suffragettes, along with Casgrain, were featured on the back side of a \$50 bill unveiled in 2004. The women were dropped from the bill in 2011 when a new polymer version was introduced.

In a statement from Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey said, "On Tuesday, Dec. 13, government asked for the conciliation officer to bring the bargaining teams of the province and Nova Scotia Teachers Union together again in the hopes of reaching a resolution. Everyone involved wants what is best for our students. We hope the union will accept our invitation to resume negotiations. A copy of the premier's letter to the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education requesting conciliation services is available at <http://novascotia.ca/psc/public-service-sustainability-mandate/Dec%2013%20Letter%20from%20Premier.pdf>.

Energy Minister Michel Samson has had three new portfolio's temporary added to his workload as he assumes Diana Whalen's responsibilities as Justice Minister, Attorney General and Deputy Premier. Whalen was forced to take a brief leave from her cabinet duties after being hospitalized on Monday, December 5. She is expected to make a full recovery.

Brent Butt, star of Corner Gas will be performing at the **Cobequid Education Centre (CEC), 34 Lorne Street, in Truro, NS on Friday, May 5th at 6:30pm in the** You'll Die Laughing 2017 event in support of the Colchester East Hants Hospice Society. Butt will be joined at You'll Die Laughing by special guest, **Bill Carr.** Tickets for You'll Die Laughing 2017 with Brent Butt and Bill Carr are now available from www.ticketpro.ca, 1-888-311-9090, and all Ticketpro outlets.

Operation Christmas, Nova Scotia's annual impaired driving awareness campaign began on Dec. 7 and continues throughout the holiday season. It is being supported by all government departments and law enforcement agencies across the province. Please drive safe at all times of the year.

Tree Trivia: Help us find a future Boston Christmas Tree. If you know of any big spruce or fir tree that has that perfect conical shape, density and height (45 to 50 ft) that could be a future tree that Nova Scotia presents to Boston as thanks for their help after the Halifax Explosion, please let me know. Donald Cameron, E-mail: Don.Cameron@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) has announced two newly approved productions through the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund. Television series *Eyes For The Job*, produced by Fence Post Productions Inc., has been approved for a funding commit-

continued on page 11

Pipeline to Point Tupper Recommended by Senate Committee

By Maurice Rees

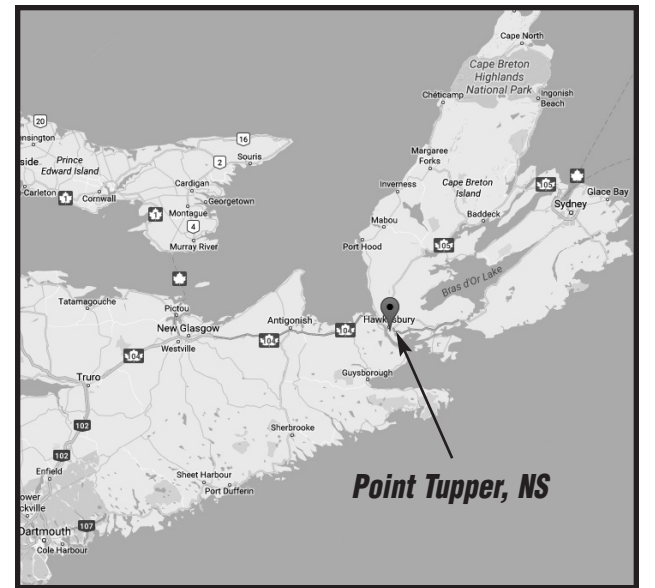
A committee of the Canadian Senate released a report on December 7th favouring the extension of the proposed Energy East pipeline through Nova Scotia to Point Tupper. Originally the 4,500 Km pipeline was planned to have its easterly terminus in Saint John, but during the last couple of year's Nova Scotia advocates have been urging an extension to Point Tupper so product from Alberta's Oil Sands could be shipped to overseas markets from Point Tupper's ice-free deep water harbour, which already has petroleum storage and shipping infrastructure.

It might seem ironic for some readers to see a story in the Shoreline Journal concerning a pipeline story transporting products from Alberta's Oil Sands. However, it is totally relevant, because if the pipeline

were to become reality, it would be constructed and pass through parts of Cumberland and Colchester Counties on its way to Point Tupper.

During the past few months, the Senate Committee conducted public hearings and a fact-finding mission in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal, Saint John, Halifax and Port Hawkesbury. As a result, the committee developed a strategy to facilitate the transportation of crude oil to eastern Canadian refineries and to ports on the east and west coasts of Canada.

During the December 7th press conference, Senators Michael MacDonald, Terry Mercer and Pierre-Hughes Boisvenu shared the committee's recommendations as well as the risks and benefits of various options linked to projects regarding the trans-



portation of crude oil.

Senators said the National Energy Board should be modernized and given a broader mandate to consider environmental and Indigenous concerns when hearing pipeline proposals.

A stronger, more inclusive and less political regulatory process is an essential first step towards expanding Canada's energy infrastructure in a way that maximizes economic benefit and minimizes environmental risk while achieving broader public consensus. Modernizing the energy board is just one of the recommendations the committee has made.

Allowing the board to consider environmental and Indigenous concerns would make the regulatory process more legitimate and productive. The committee is specifically recommending establishing a permanent Indigenous peoples' representative on the board to provide assurances to Indigenous communities that the board is receptive to their views.

The committee is also recommending removing final approval for board decisions from the Governor in Council (the Governor General, acting on the advice of cabinet). The current requirement for

final approval from cabinet virtually guarantees the regulatory process is highly politicized rather than decided on the merits of the proposal at hand.

The proposal from a Senate committee to extend the controversial Energy East pipeline through Nova Scotia is a shell game to save the Energy East pipeline, but makes no sense from an environmental and climate change perspective, says the Council of Canadians, who are opposed to the report's conclusions.

"Pipeline advocates are running the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation and Communications committee. This is unacceptable at a time when cutting carbon emissions should be a federal priority," says Robin Tress, Council of Canadians spokesperson in the Atlantic region. "Senator Michael MacDonald, a Harper appointee from Nova Scotia, promoted Energy East and the extension to Point Tupper, throughout the committee's hearing process. Harper-appointed Senator Pierre-Hughes Boisvenu coached Nova Scotia Minister of Energy Michel Samson to push the Quebec government towards accepting Energy East."

Things Happen for a Reason!

Continued from page 1

and the location of her siblings but the people had moved or remarried, so I couldn't seem to track down anyone on the list. It wasn't until I turned to Facebook that things started to look promising.

I found some names fitting the profiles I had been given and began to send out some Facebook messages. It took several weeks before I finally got a reply and then another few weeks before I received the phone call I had been hoping for. Nancy, Arthur McKay Ross's granddaughter, called me on Dec. 14th from Ontario.

It turns out her sister Karen, who lived in Pugwash, had become ill and had to go into a long-term care facility. As a result of Karen's illness, her house and contents had to be sold.

The mystery was now starting to unravel. No one in the family knew the medals existed, except for Karen (who now suffers from dementia). The medals sold at auction, with the rest of the household contents, without the family knowing. Thanks to Walter Millen's keen eye, they now have the chance to get them back.

Nancy's daughter sent me a Facebook message telling

me how happy she was to know the whereabouts of her great grandfather's medals. It turns out Walter Millen had also purchased another set of medals that belong to one of her great uncles on her grandmother's side. She hopes to pass the medals on to her own son, who is named Ross.

This story has a very happy ending. I am going to meet up with Nancy before Christmas, when she comes to Pugwash to visit her sister. It will be a wonderful opportunity to compare family trees and I will be thrilled to know the medals will be safely back with the proper branch of the family.

Perhaps readers can learn a lesson from this story and make sure family members know where important documents and treasures are within a family.

Special thank you to Walter Millen who made this all come together...certainly for a reason!



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