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## Dr. Ewing Receives 2017 YMCA Peace Award

By Maurice Rees

Dr. Karen Ewing has been awarded the 2017 YMCA Peace Award for the creation and successful operation of the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park and for creation of the Blue Marble Initiative, a peace and environmental initiative created by Ewing in 2015.

The YMCA Peace Medallion, celebrating its 30th Anniversary, has been granted by Y's across Canada as a reminder a more peaceful world is possible, community by community, and that everyone's efforts are necessary.

As part of YMCA Peace Week, YMCAs across Canada present the YMCA Peace

Medal to individuals or groups who, without any special resources, status, wealth or position, demonstrate a commitment to the values of P-E-A-C-E through contributions made within their local, national or global community.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the YMCA Peace Medal. Since 1987, more

than 1,900 individuals and groups across Canada have been recognized for their peacebuilding work with YMCA Peace Medals.

This year Cumberland YMCA honoured Dr. Karen Ewing of Upper Economy with this prestigious award at the Veterans Memorial Park Board meeting on November 19, 2017 by Jeff MacNeil, a representative from the Cumberland YMCA. Accompanying the Medallion was a certificate designating Dr. Ewing as a Peacemaker.

During 2017 Veterans Memorial Park year hosted a silent Candlelight Peace Vigil in February; a Holocaust Remembrance Service; International Day of United Nations Peacekeeping; Peace Day Celebration and a Remembrance Day Service. The Peace Day Celebration saw the launch of "Peace is a Dream Unfolding",

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## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS January 2018

**STRESS RELIEF** – I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So, please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too. **And another one:** If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

**Lead With Your Heart's** Mental Wellness Group, Truro will resume meetings in January, on the 17th at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Hall at First United, located at Queen St. and Lorne. Peter Bakes from the Medicine Shoppe in Truro Mall, will be guest speaker. He a member of the board of directors for the Canadian Mental Health Association will talk about his "Bloom Program".

**By-mid December,** Canada's new vehicle market was on pace for its first ever two million unit year. Through November, sales are up a very strong five per cent, on pace to easily eclipse the two million threshold for the first time ever in Canada. Sales have been particularly strong in Nova Scotia, where they have grown by 12.2 per cent so far this year.

**Jim Merriam,** Parrsboro and Audrey and Logan Spencer, Great Village names were drawn as winners of the Shoreline Journal's annual subscription promotion, which includes those who renew subscriptions early. Their subscription expiry date will be extended for one year.

**The Nova Scotia** government has accepted an arbitrator's decision to give civil servants in the largest public sector union a four per cent wage increase under a six-year deal. The province's original stance was that it could only afford a 3.5 per cent increase over four years for members of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.

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The view over Parrsboro's Aboiteau from Lawrence Nicoll's backyard. See more of Lawrence's photography throughout the Shoreline Journal, and don't miss his pics on page 15 and 18. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Mia Perry is interviewed by Jonathan Torrens (left) as Laurie Jennings looks on, during the debut of the Hub Town Ad Challenge Finalists. Mia directed the submission for Masstown Market. All five ads have been posted at <https://www.facebook.com/HubtownAdChallenge/>. You can go to the page and vote for your favourite up until noon on Friday, Dec. 22nd. The one with the most "likes" will be chosen as the winner. (Harrington Photo)

## No Cash at Bell Aliant

By Maurice Rees

Your cash will not be accepted at Bell Aliant effective January 1, 2018. Starting in January if you wish to visit a Bell Aliant store to pay your landline or cellphone bill, you can only do it with a debit or credit card as the company has adopted a policy of no cash.

To provide background data regarding this matter, here's how things evolved. A colleague tipped me off by relaying earlier that day his wife was informed by a Bell Aliant staff member at their store in Truro Mall, that effective January 1, 2018, she would not be able to pay cash. Only debit or credit card would be accepted.

The next day I called the store and the details were confirmed. The lady on the other end of the phone mentioned that it was due to changes in their electronic machines and cash would not be accepted and the same applied to MacQuarrie's (payment opportunity) and also to Eastlink

because the technology was the same.

During the conversation Bell's rep stated that all the time we were making payments we were not paying Bell, but rather another company who handled this process for them. She also said, "during all this time, we were only taking "cash as a favour".

Not comfortable someone at Bell Aliant would speak on behalf of MacQuarries and Eastlink, I called both companies, who denied any knowledge and cash would certainly be welcome. I then followed up with a posting on our Facebook page, plus contacting other media.

Very soon, I was contacted by CBC's Maritime Noon and did an interview. Soon a letter to the editor of the Chronicle Herald was on my list. (It's published on Page 4 of this issue). As soon as the letter was published, I was contacted and subsequently did two interviews on the Rick Howe Show on 95.7.

I don't mean to editorialize,

but I felt strongly Bell Aliant's decision would be harmful to seniors or those who did not have a chequing account of debit / credit card, I continued my rant.

I contacted the Ombudsman's office in each province, but each advised since Bell is a company there was nothing they could do, because they only deal with matters regarding governments and crown corporations. Since the Shoreline Journal is a member of Newspapers Atlantic, an association representing community newspapers in Atlantic Canada, I contacted the local association. Sister associations across Canada, representing approximately 600 member newspapers were also contacted.

Through all of this it is interesting not one, municipal, provincial or federal elected representative has made a public comment.

I'm still interested in continuing the battle. People with similar feelings can contact me at: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

## Council Approves \$2,500 Grant

By Maurice Rees

A request for \$9,000 for Halifax Cheer Elite to bring to 2018 events to Truro evolved into considerable discussion at Council committee meeting on November 16th. The Cheerleading provincials will be held April 21 and 22 is expected to draw 1800 people to the event at RECC. Financial data supplied with the application projects revenue of \$50,500, and expenses of \$33,950, including \$9,200 for rental of RECC. The organizations surplus income would increase from \$16,550 to \$19,050, after council committee's decision to approve \$2,500 with councillors Parker and Boutilier voting Nay.

Council committee spent considerable time discussing possible changes to the grants for non-profit organizations, but failed to reach a final decision. The matter has been referred back to staff to report back at council's monthly meeting on November 30th.

Council is considering grants up to \$1,000, based on financial need, would re-

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