

# REES' Pieces

## Control your own destiny

No matter who you talk to there is a lot of concern about where we are headed politically, economically and will society be able to stop climate change so we don't cause major environmental and biodiversity changes. Add to that list, inflation and rising interest rates, which could cripple us, before we have a chance to implement our version of how we can help achieve successful outcomes to what faces us.

With those concerns, we are like frogs, which lily pad do I jump to next?

The consequences could be so catastrophic we don't know where to turn. My assumption, based on the style of life we have grown accustomed, we are most vulnerable with the political direction. The rapid surge of the populist movement is just starting to gain traction and be more visible in Atlantic Canada.

As a comparative, for decades we thought or perceived Albertans as "rednecks" who have openly showed disgust to those provinces who received equalization grants. Even some politicians who served at the federal level carried a similar attitude. Remember the comment "freeze in the dark"?

With Jason Kenny no longer premier, it didn't take long for his female replacement and her team to show their true colours, by introducing proposed legislation to allow them to ignore federal laws, policies and directives if not totally in Alberta's interest.

Thankfully, there were enough "true Canadians" within the confines of the oil patch kingdom who created enough blow-back, she was forced to do a hasty make amendments to tone things down.

We are not out of the woods yet. There are pockets of "populism" across Canada and we might have some major battles on our hands. In the nation's capital there is enough to keep us sitting on the edge of our seats. Although not an Albertan, there's one political leader who openly wanted to make changes to Bank of Canada; remove the Governor, and put more emphasis on crypto currency.

That leader's credibility started to drop when massive crypto failures caused many super rich people to lose trillions from their amassed fortunes. One by-election in Ontario's 905 corridor might not indicate a trend which may lie ahead. However, it may cause many to question the sanity of us going down a similar road. Part of a defense to the election outcome might be, "Don't blame me. Even as leader, I did not step foot into the riding during the campaign".

Provincially, even though most of us could find reasons to be upset with Nova Scotia Power, and/or Emera, I wonder about the wisdom picking a fight. Over the long term is it viable and still possible to win the war and be assured of a successful outcome? It's possible to win the occasional "brownie point", but long term success is where we should focus our efforts.

Holding NS Power to a 1.8% regiment might save us for a few months or couple of years, but if the bond rating agencies intercede, we might pay a lot more for a long time. If bonds are downgraded, borrowing costs rise dramatically. Think of it this way. Most of us have hit rough times. It takes a lot more effort and long time to recover.

I'm more concerned about "going with the flow" and not upset the apple cart to the point of destruction. A smoother road, even with a few "potholes" is much preferred.

If we wish to get ahead, there are many things we could do individually and as a society which would bring us to a more comfortable future. We could lower our expectations by buying a used vehicle rather than a shiny new one every few years. We could delay major purchases, or adopt a more gradual plan for upgrading. We could dramatically lower the cost of food, by freezing, preserving, making jam rather than rushing to the grocery store to get a pint of very expensive raspberries in the middle of January.

Want to eliminate inflation?

Adopt an in-the-home and lifestyle of "REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE. Take control of your own destiny.

**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 a 94 year old Mum, who was originally from Folly Mountain, married and lived in Wentworth much of her adult life.

Mum had a lifelong connection to the Chronicle Herald right up to the time they ended print editions a couple weeks ago.

She is missing her paper terribly, so I'm hoping your paper will fill the void, even if it doesn't provide any news from the Wentworth/Wallace area where she now lives with me.

Can you please tell me how I can subscribe? I'll give it to her

as a Christmas gift. I can pay by debit or VISA, or do an e transfer, or cash if the driving conditions are suitable for a drive to Bass River.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Wayne Redmond, Wentworth / Wallace**

*(Editor's Note: Mr Redmond was advised, he need not drive to get a gift for his mother. He could easily send an e-transfer to: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com. We'd even mail her a Christmas card, advising the paper was a gift from her son).*

## Mayor Blair's Holiday Message

**Dear Residents of Colchester:**

On behalf of Council and staff of the Municipality of Colchester, I would like to take this opportunity to extend seasons greeting to you and yours.

Once again, 2022 has been a challenging one for many. Thankfully, this time of year offers a glow of optimism. With the lights, decorations, holiday music, and traditions, despite the cold weather there is a warmth in the air. We are fortunate to live in a peaceful part of the world where neighbours still help neighbours, where communities gather to celebrate, and where passersby offer a friendly smile or "hello" to one another on the street.

As we approach 2023, I look forward to a joy-filled and prosperous year ahead. It is my sincerest hope that you have a healthy and safe holiday season and enjoy all the beauty that Colchester has to offer at this wonderful time of year.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and may we each contribute to making the new year a happy one for all!

**Christine Blair, Mayor, Municipality of Colchester**



**Mayor Christine Blair**

## Free Heat Pumps for Low-Income Households

Low-income Nova Scotians will get free heat pumps and other home upgrades thanks to a \$140-million provincial investment in energy efficiency programs over four years. The funding will help all Nova Scotians move away from oil heat faster, with extra support for low- and middle-income households.

"We know too many Nova Scotians are struggling to pay their oil bills and need more help to install heat pumps and make other energy efficiency upgrades," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "With this provincial investment and millions more that it will leverage from our federal partners, we're helping Nova Scotians save money and be a part of the solution to fight climate change."

When combined with federal contributions, the funding will help about 13,500 low-income households and about 30,000

middle-income households. The funding will start rolling out in the new year to improve and expand Efficiency Nova Scotia programs, with extra support for people who need help the most.

Low-income households can apply now to the HomeWarming program for free heat pumps and any electrical panel upgrades needed to install them. People who have already received energy efficiency upgrades through this program can apply again for this new support.

All Nova Scotians can continue getting help with a variety of energy efficiency upgrades through the Home Energy Assessment program. It is the first step to accessing rebates or loans through the federal Greener Homes program. With the new funding, there will be extra support for middle-income households to get rebates when they install energy efficient heating systems and other upgrades that reduce their reliance on oil.

The provincial funding will leverage more money from the federal investments announced this fall in the Low Carbon Economy Fund and the Canada Greener Homes Initiative. The total amount will be determined once agreements are finalized.

**Quick Facts:** This investment helps meet a commitment in the government's climate change plan for clean growth. The Province will invest \$10 million in the current fiscal year and \$43.3 million per year for the next three fiscal years. While the focus is on moving away from heating oil, all other upgrades supported through Efficiency Nova Scotia programs will continue to be available.

Half of Nova Scotia homes are still heated with oil, and the cost has increased significantly due to global inflation and the war in Ukraine. The new funding will help create 1,500 jobs in small businesses and trades around the province.

## Emergency Overnight Winter Shelter to Open in Amherst

The Province will provide \$360,000 in funding for a new emergency shelter serving Cumberland County this winter to support people experiencing homelessness.

The shelter at Crossroads Community Church in Amherst will open in early December and provide 20 beds for all genders. It will operate as an evening and overnight shelter until April 30. The Province worked in partnership with local municipal governments and community organizations on the project.

"This funding will help ensure that those experi-

encing homelessness in Cumberland County have access to a warm place to sleep over the winter," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables and MLA for Cumberland South, on behalf of Community Services Minister Karla MacFarlane. "I'd like to thank the Mayor of Amherst, the Mayor of Cumberland County and local community organizations and individuals for their unwavering support in making this shelter a reality."

Cumberland Homelessness and Housing Support Association, also known as Cornerstone, will provide support services and staffing at the shelter.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

**BASS RIVER:**

Bayside Pharmacy  
Dominion Chair Factory Store

**BIBLE HILL:**

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
MacQuarries Pharmacy  
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

**DEBERT:**

Debert Mini-Mart

**FIVE ISLANDS:**

Masstown Market Five Islands

**GLENHOLME:**

Double "C" Truckstop

**GREAT VILLAGE:**

Wilson's Gas

**MAITLAND:**

Frieze & Roy General Store

**MASSTOWN:**

Masstown Market  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

**MILLBROOK:**

Super 8 Motel  
Hampton Inn & Suites

**NORTH RIVER:**

Grant's Grocery

**PARRSBORO:**

CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave

**TRURO:**

Atlantic Superstore  
Best Western Glengarry  
Holiday Inn  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

**NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:**

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:  
Bass River Consolidated;  
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chignais Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:

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