

Baillie enters leadership race



Jamie Baillie, former chief of staff for Premier John Hamm, former resident of Truro and new CEO of Credit Unions Atlantic has entered the race to become leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia. A leadership convention is scheduled for Halifax in October.

The Shoreline Journal’s publisher, Maurice Rees, conducted a Q&A interview with Jamie on Monday, June 14th. The interview is as follows:

With all the negative feelings about politicians, why did you decide to leave the private sector?

That’s precisely why I decided to run for the leadership. I decided to step up because I believe in the political system. It has its flaws, but it is the best we have. It’s important for people to know there are believers. To overcome the negativity it will take the “whole team” approach, and that is what I plan to do.

Assuming you are chosen leader this fall. How do you perceive you are different from all other politicians?

I believe I have the required experience. I have run a successful company (Credit Unions), which have doubled in five years. I’m not green to government experience having run the premier’s office, plus I am from a small town (Truro) and live in the city (Halifax). Those combinations are what Nova Scotia is all about.

The electorate is cynical, if not bordering on down-right disgust and non-trusting of politicians in that once elected MLA’s toe the party line

instead of voting as their constituents wish. At what point would you emphatically insist voting in the legislature would be “free vote”?

MLA’s should represent their constituents. Under my leadership, the party would operate as a “whole”. Caucus would operate as a “whole”. The success of this is to develop policy to represent the entire province, so MLA’s are comfortable and united, because it applies to their constituents.

If you adopted a “free vote” policy, under what circumstances would you expect MLA’s to vote party policy and not necessarily what their constituents wanted?

If we take the approach of serving the entire province, that will make us accountable to everyone. In doing that we are not bringing forward policy, which is not in the best interest of the entire province.

Payroll rebates have been used as a tool to attract larger or international firms to the province. Many agree it has served us well, because it’s a rebate instead of up-front “cash”. Many of the applicable firms were “service oriented” and operated in leased premises, suggesting they did not have much in the way of fixed assets such as land, buildings, equipment. Now we are seeing signs of firms closing up once the rebate has ended. How would you change the payroll rebate program?

Yes, the rebate program has worked and brought jobs to the province. Every program needs to be reviewed and refined on an ongoing basis. It has not been the only tool. NSBI needs more tools.

Hundreds of small business owners, many in rural areas, have felt excluded from assistance programs, and the payroll rebate or a similar program should have applied to them. Many of these firms are family owned and based in rural areas. Would you favour a payroll rebate program for smaller firms, who might only have 3-5 employees?

An NSBI program is needed to attract larger businesses, but I feel NSBI needs to have tools that apply to locally owned, small businesses. NSBI needs to have specific direction to implement such a policy. There a strong business cases to development of policies which apply to the province as a whole and at the same time accommodates the needs of small business.

If I remember correctly, press reports indicated you have stated Nova Scotians earning less than \$100,000.00 would not pay income taxes. How would that work?

We need to keep our well-educated youth here in the province. They graduate from university or community with massive student debt. Right now they are going when the money appears to be higher, so they can repay their debt. What I am proposing is a program specifically for “new graduates”, who are under 30 years old. We need them to stay here, perhaps meet their spouse, and get entrenched in starting their career here. What I am proposing is to offer them the opportunity to do that, by guaranteeing them they will not pay Nova Scotia Income Tax on the first \$100,000.00 of income. If we can keep them here until they are at least 30 years old, we have a better chance of keeping them here.

In recent years many people have seen their savings evaporate in a downward global economy, and at the same time municipalities are mired in debt unable to repair or improve infrastructure. Do you envision a program of “municipal bonds” as a way for municipalities to raise money, which

would permit residents to purchase these bonds as a means of investing in their community in a safe environment whereby their invested capital was not at risk?

This matter needs more explanation. We need to find a way to advocate more pension savings to be directed to our own economy. I think there is a good case for government to sell some of its assets to alleviate itself of the debt and to use the monies to develop infrastructure. The Halifax-Dartmouth bridges are a good example. Currently they are owned by the government and I believe pension funds would like to own assets of this nature. The motorist would not know the difference.

I do not think government should sell assets like schools or hospitals. We don’t need toll highways. There are enough pension funds which have accumulated to renew the infrastructure. However, the policy needs to be clear.

10 years ago, we entered into contracts for P-3 schools. That was wrong. The cost of maintenance and upkeep is costly. The P-3 schools might serve us well during the day, and they have lovely facilities, large gyms, meeting rooms etc, but after 5:00 pm they are locked up tight unless a community group rents at at a high cost.

We need to review all the policies and determine, “Who does What!!”. It’s a sorry state of the political system. We need to do a thorough review and reform the system.

It seems community groups are always at the mercy of annual government policy for funding for “summer students” and other initiatives and decisions are not made until the last minute. The burden on volunteers is too high, and they are burning out. What would you do to change that?

Volunteers are the backbone of our communities. We have it all wrong. People need to be put back at the top. Right now, MLA’s and government are a the top and people feel at the bottom of the pyramid. We need to change that so people are back at the top.

One way to do this is to create a panel of citizens, who would oversee the salaries, bonuses and rules under which MLA’s operate. It would affect per diem’s, allowable expenses and set limits. That would be the best start.

As for grants to community groups, right now it is “too much about politics and too much delay”. Policies need to be clear and continuing support needs to be based on job performance. In exchange for that, any group which receives more than 50% of its funding should be subject to audit, regardless of its size.

A short while ago, the Auditor General stated he was unable to complete the audits, because the government withheld information. That is wrong. Multi-year funding could be possible, but it needs clear policies, subject to review and performance based.

Community groups are hampered because they face a large bill each year for liability insurance. Each year volunteers “burn out”, because they have to do so much fund raising just to pay the insurance premiums. What do you propose?

The volunteer sector is most important to Nova Scotia and, yes, liability insurance premiums are a big burden. We need a different arrangement for situations such as this. All volunteers need protection, but we must find a way to solve the problem. Perhaps there is a way for government to provide the coverage. It needs to be reviewed and clear policies developed.



Jayden (showing his tattoos) and Cameron Lawrence enjoyed a tour of the fire truck with fire fighters Shane (back) and Brandon Slack. The Debert Fire Brigade Open House was well attended on June 12th. (Harrington Photo)



Debert Fire Brigade members Kevin Totten and Colin Jennings help future firefighter Andrew Totten spray the fire hose during an Open House at the Firehall on June 12th. (Harrington Photo)

Londonderry Community Council News

By Sally Richard

During the past week many people came to Londonderry for two specific reasons. One was a sad occasion and the other a happy celebration. On both occasions many people were old friends who took the opportunity to renew and enjoy the warmth of being in a familiar place where memories can make one feel very comfortable and at ease. That always seems to be the atmosphere created by our community center. Perhaps it is because the building was once our school where so many memorable hours were spent in youth.

Whatever the reason, whenever we gather there for any occasion the feeling of being at home is always prevalent. Thanks to the foresight and continuous participation of our colleague Fred Gamble, that we have such a facility today.

Our sincere condolences to the family of the late Fred Gamble who passed away at his home on June 10 after a brief illness. As mentioned, he was a valuable member of our community council. Fred will be greatly missed by all citizens of this community. Following a family graveside service, a reception was appropriately held at the Community Center. An estimated 200 people gathered to pay their final farewell to a well respected man.

On June 17, Charlotte (Bogle) MacVicar marked her 70th birthday on the calendar. Her husband Reid threw a

great party in honour of the occasion. Over 100 family members and friends from near and far gathered at the Community Center to dance and enjoy an evening of celebration with Charlotte. Wayne Elliott and his band provided awesome music. It really was a wonderful party.

Helen Patriquin, Folly Mountain, also celebrated her 80th birthday this month. Several family members and friends dropped by for cake and ice cream. Congratulations Helen and we wish you many more. Cliff Lane, formerly of Londonderry Station, now living in Highland Village, celebrated his 89th birthday recently with family. And rumor has it that Debbie MacMullen is celebrating her 50th birthday this month. Lastly, best wishes to Dan Richard who will turn 70 this month. Wherever does the time go!

Cal Matheson is home for two weeks from Drumheller, Alberta. While home, Cal will be attending his daughter Caitlyn’s graduation from Grade 12. Charlotte MacVicar was elected Chairperson at the annual meeting of the Community Credit Union. The area includes Amherst, Bass River and Truro.

Three properties in our area have recently been sold. The Henderson property (formerly owned by Ena Hanson) was sold. Dorothy MacMasters sold her property and is moving to an apartment in Bible Hill. The Tinney property was

purchased by Gail and Clary Bourgeois of Stewiacke.

Our sympathy to John Richard on the passing of his sister Isabel Liberace, Las Vegas.

Londonderry Station Community Church (The Thirsty Church) is pleased to have Rev. Natalie Buchanan-Rutherford for Sunday services throughout the summer months. Sunday services start of 10:30 am. A successful bake sale was held at the church recently and the congregation donated many non-perishable items to the local food bank. Acadia United Church, Londonderry will be holding

services once a month during the summer months with Rev. Dan Gunn officiating. Contact Reid MacVicar for time and dates.

Please remember to pray for our troops in Afghanistan as it is expected that the summer months will be very active in conflict. There are several people serving there from all areas of our province. To date, 147 Canadian soldiers have given the supreme sacrifice there.

Community Council meetings and card parties will resume in September. Contact Amanda Langille (668-2300) for hall rental inquiries.

Vintage Maps available as placemats

By Dick Akerman

In 1864 the Legislature of Nova Scotia commissioned the Ambrose F. Church Company to map the highways, byways, and towns of Nova Scotia, indicating the location of individual dwellings and their owners, businesses, public buildings, and many items of interest. The mapping of Colchester County was completed around 1875 offering a unique “snapshot” of the County as it was at that time.

These maps hung in most schools and public buildings. The Colchester Archives have preserved several original copies in its inventory. Jane Wile, genealogy researcher and author of more than forty-five Colchester County family genealogies, has digitalized this map. It is available in book form at the Archives, “Book Nook”.

Recently, Jane has produced these maps in a 11” by 17” format, plasticized, suitable as a place mat, or a framed picture. If your family lived in Colchester County in the 1870s, you should be able to find your ancestral home. A total of thirty eight maps covers all areas of the County. The maps are available at the Archives on Young St. in Truro and at several retail outlets throughout the County.

Captain Robert Merriam’s home in Great Village, which was ravaged by fire (April 2010 issue) and mentioned in a letter to the editor, in this issue, can easily be located on map #302, on Wharf Road, with the shipyard and his neighbor John M. Blaikie nearby.

For more information contact: Dick Akerman, Archives volunteer, Colchester Historical Society, Museum & Archives, 895-9530, Home, 647-2937.