

REES' Pieces

What a month. Like none before is my first guess. Normally, June is a happy month. Farmers are finishing planting, starting to put up hay and silage, school graduations, lots of weddings of those who will provide leaders of business and government in the next 30 years, and the start of the real tourist season.

Bad weather, tourism operators complaining, farmers in a panic about their crops, no sun, lots of wind and rain, blueberry producers worried about the success of this year's crop as the bees could or would not fly to do their pollinating jobs, yet everything is growing.

Garden centres are reporting a disastrous season, as no one had the enthusiasm to get into the vegetable or flower gardens. Retailers are crying foul, as summer merchandise is still hanging on the racks, as summer fashions were the farthest thing from many minds.

All in all, it was a spring of turmoil and dismal outlook. So were the months of May and June 2011.

More than likely when the weather changes it will come in blistering hot and dry extending into August and early September. Problems will exist.

For instance, strawberries will ripen in a couple of days, the market will be flooded, and prices will drop. Add to that the possibility the crop will ripen so fast, there will not be enough pickers and a lot of produce will be left to rot on the vine. Field crops of summer vegetables will suffer from extreme heat maturing too much too fast.

In addition to our woes of spring, no sooner was the federal election over and we were faced with the thoughts of strikes by nurses, pharmacists changing how they would charge for prescriptions, closure of several prominent industries across the province, an Air Canada strike and then the dreadful threat of a postal strike.

Nurses, Air Canada and pharmacists situations got settled, but Canada Post continued to face disruption with rotating strikes and then a "lock out".

As if not bad enough with a dismal spring, for the most part the rural economy quickly ground to a halt. No incoming money, no easy way to send out invoices, customers facing threat of not getting their cheques had everyone worrying. Small business the lifeline of the provincial economy was especially hit hard.

Even the Shoreline was affected, but not as much as others. We were lucky; the June issue was published and delivered just hours before the rotating strikes began. Making it through the month, we certainly noticed the drop in cash flow, writers were not able to submit articles, as per normal and advertisers were reluctant to commit, because no end was in sight.

Where I did notice the affect of the strike, we did not receive one entry for the photo contest to curb illegal dumping. The contest (see June issue) is still on, so send in your entries and we will award prized in the August issue.

But just as deadlines approached, Harper's Conservatives introduced legislation to end the strike. However, the interests of labour was carried forward by the NDP who staged a 58+ hour filibuster, causing MP's to stay in Ottawa and work in shifts to keep parliament moving forward. Late Saturday night, June 25th legislation was passed.

Around 8 pm on Sunday night word was received the Senate had approved the bill and it was immediately given Royal Assent. Following media reports, it is believed Canada Post would be operational on Tuesday, June 28th. Government cheques will be delivered, the economy will resume and the Shoreline Journal can deliver the July issue to the post office and get delivery without missing a beat.

Now there are two things, which strike me as ironic. No NDP opposition to legislation forcing an Air Canada settlement. Was that because MP's wanted to be able to fly home, and still collect points for another flight? Was the NDP feeling the heat of business owners and stopped their filibuster because of the potential wrath of the general public, because of the fear cheques would not be delivered before month's end?

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Editor,

July 1st marks the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel - one of the most significant battles fought by the Newfoundlanders in the First World War. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment sent 801 soldiers to battle at Beaumont-Hamel. Only 68 members of the unit answered roll call the next day.

As a member of The War Amps Operation Legacy, a group of committed young people who are dedicated to preserving Canada's military heritage, I would like to highlight this anniversary.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment - also known as the "Blue Puttees" because of the colour of the uniform leggings the soldiers wore - was literally a band of volunteers built from scratch. Following their near annihilation at Beaumont-Hamel, they regrouped and distinguished themselves in other significant battles throughout the war. They earned themselves the reputation as one of the best fighting forces of the "war to end all wars." Perhaps the ultimate honour, they were awarded the prefix "Royal" to the regiment by the British War Office before the war was even over.

To mark this anniversary, The War Amps has re-released its documentary The Blue Puttees to regular and specialty TV channels. As part of The War Amps Military Heritage Series, it is also available at a cost-recovery price of \$12 by calling 1 800 250-3030 or visiting waramps.ca.

Sincerely, Erica Noonan, 20
Operation Legacy Member,
Stephenville

Hi Mr. Rees:

I just read (with great interest and from cover-to-cover) the Shoreline Journal's 'Regional Tourism Feature' and noticed that there was no mention of the Veterans Memorial Park which rather surprised me - especially with all the wonderful programs they've had so far this year and the fact that they're attracting global attention. It's too bad they missed out on being promoted in the supplement which will be read by so many.

Respectfully,
Heather Robinson

Dear editor:

Celebrating seniors across the province

There are about 131,000 seniors in Nova Scotia and each month an additional 700 people turn 65. With this rate of growth, Nova Scotia's senior population is expected to double by 2026.

Doctors Nova Scotia is celebrating the province's growing senior population and the contributions they make to our communities and our province. It's important that we take the time to think about ways we can help senior Nova Scotians keep active and stay healthy.

Doctors in the province remind senior Nova Scotians to make health a priority in your lives. Be active, eat lots of fiber, get a flu shot, stay on top of any health issues you may have, and visit your doctor regularly. It's also important to stay informed about health conditions that are more common for those aged 65 and over.

Getting and staying healthy

starts long before visiting the doctor's office. Leading an active life is integral to leading a long life. Staying physically active helps seniors remain strong and flexible and able to perform everyday tasks. It plays a role in preventing illness, alleviating symptoms related to chronic health problems, improves mood, and reduces stress. Also, it helps to reduce the risk of falling.

Planning to fit exercise into every day means you are putting yourself first and that helps ensure you'll be there when others need you. It's important to talk to your doc-

tor so you have the necessary knowledge to make the right decisions in maintaining good health for years to come.

Even if you're not a senior but hope to become one someday you should prepare now so you'll get the most out of life not only when you arrive but all the way along.

For more information about programs and services for seniors, visit www.gov.ns.ca/seniors.

Dr. John Chiasson, BSc, MD
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The
Shoreline
Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BELMONT:
Belmont General Store

BIBLE HILL:
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy

DEBERT:
Barnhill's Superette
Debert Mini-Mart

ECONOMY:
Economy Country Store

FIVE ISLANDS:
Diane's Restaurant
Ellis Video
Masstown Market Five Islands
Mo's Café

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop
Glenholme General Store

GREAT VILLAGE:
C. D. Smith's Rite-Stop
Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:
Masstown Market

NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery

ONSLow:
Onslow Market

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

TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
Cavanagh's Market Ltd.
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave
(Esplanade)

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Old Fashioned County Fair

Saturday, July 2nd, 2011 • 12 noon - 5:00 pm

Outdoor Family Games, Games of Chance
Outdoor Play, Hot Dog Eating Contest and so much more!
CALLING ALL BAKERS!
Cumberland County's Tastiest Pie Contest
All Flavours of Pies are welcome
Register by calling: 667-2561

Antique Tools & Tractor Show

"One Day Only." Sunday, July 3rd, 2011

These wonderful tools, tractors, saws and other amazing equipment are from all over Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. These men are more than willing to share their vast knowledge of tools and equipment.

Try your luck with our 50/50 draw
or grab a bite to eat at our delicious barbeque

Cumberland County Museum and Archives

150 Church Street, Amherst- 667-2561

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR BOTH EVENTS!

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

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