

Karen Casey Responds to the Proposed Boundary Changes

By Linda Harrington

The Electoral Boundaries Commission was asked to report their findings on the electoral map of Nova Scotia earlier in May. The independent commission presented their interim report, however, this interim report was rejected by the Attorney General Ross Landry. It would appear that this rejection was based on the controversy around the four protected ridings, in particular, the commission was recommending protected status for those small constituencies designated to protect the interests of Acadian and African Nova Scotian minorities.

Since the original interim report has been rejected, the members have agreed to go back and prepare a revised interim report. Part of the process is to include reaction from communities across Nova Scotia. A final report is to be completed by August 31st.

Of concern to MLA Karen Casey are the proposed changes in the electoral boundary for Colchester North. To be specific, all communities west of the Five Houses Road to the Cumberland County line in Lower Five Islands would no longer be part of Colchester North. Rather, they would become part of what is now Cumberland South. MLA Karen Casey wants to make sure the constituents she represents are not forgotten when the Commission submits its revised interim report.

The rationale for making this recommendation appears to be based solely on numbers, but MLA Casey believes there are issues more important than numbers that need to be considered and respected during the process. Geographically Cumberland South is one of the largest constituencies in the

province. Adding the communities from Colchester North to that would make it extremely difficult for one MLA to represent the area adequately.

Another concern is that the new electoral map would cross over municipal county lines and people from the communities in question from Colchester County could be represented by an MLA from Cumberland County. The commission was asked to respect communities of interest and migration patterns. The communities "along the shore" have a great deal in common with communities like Great Village, Glenholme, Debert and have historically worked on issues together. Some of their common community interests include schools, organized sport, West Colchester United Arena in Debert, West Colchester Medical Centre in Bass River, Community Credit Union in Bass River, Cobequid Legion Branch 72 in Great Village, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 106 in Debert, mutual aid through local fire departments, medical and health services at the Colchester Regional Hospital and places of employment in Debert, Truro and beyond.

This cooperation has made our communities stronger. MLA Casey believes that the proposed electoral boundary changes would not be in the best interest of residents "along the shore". In order to provide her constituents with an opportunity to be aware of the process and the possible impact on them, a community meeting will be held at the Bass River Fire Hall, Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 7 pm. MLA Casey is determined to have the views of the constituents of Colchester North heard and will do her best to make sure they are not left out of the process.

Electoral Boundaries Changes Proposed in Colchester North



District 10 Councillor Tom Taggart takes a look at the new NS Electoral Boundaries map and notes the changes to Colchester North. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

On December 30, 2011, a Commission to review and provide recommendations on electoral boundaries was established after consultations across the province by a Select Committee of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. The process of redrawing electoral boundaries in Nova Scotia recurs every ten years and is meant to ensure provincial constituencies continue to reflect the constitutional right of all citizens to fair and effective representa-

tion in the legislature.

The Commission held public meetings across the province and submitted an interim report to the Attorney General on May 31, 2012. The final report will be presented by August 31, 2012.

Recommendations affecting the areas of Colchester North into Cumberland County were as follows: "Cumberland South be expanded to include more of the Parrsboro shore area (from Colchester

North) to create the new constituency of Cumberland-Fundy Shore; Colchester North: Loses section of Colchester County, from Bass River westward."

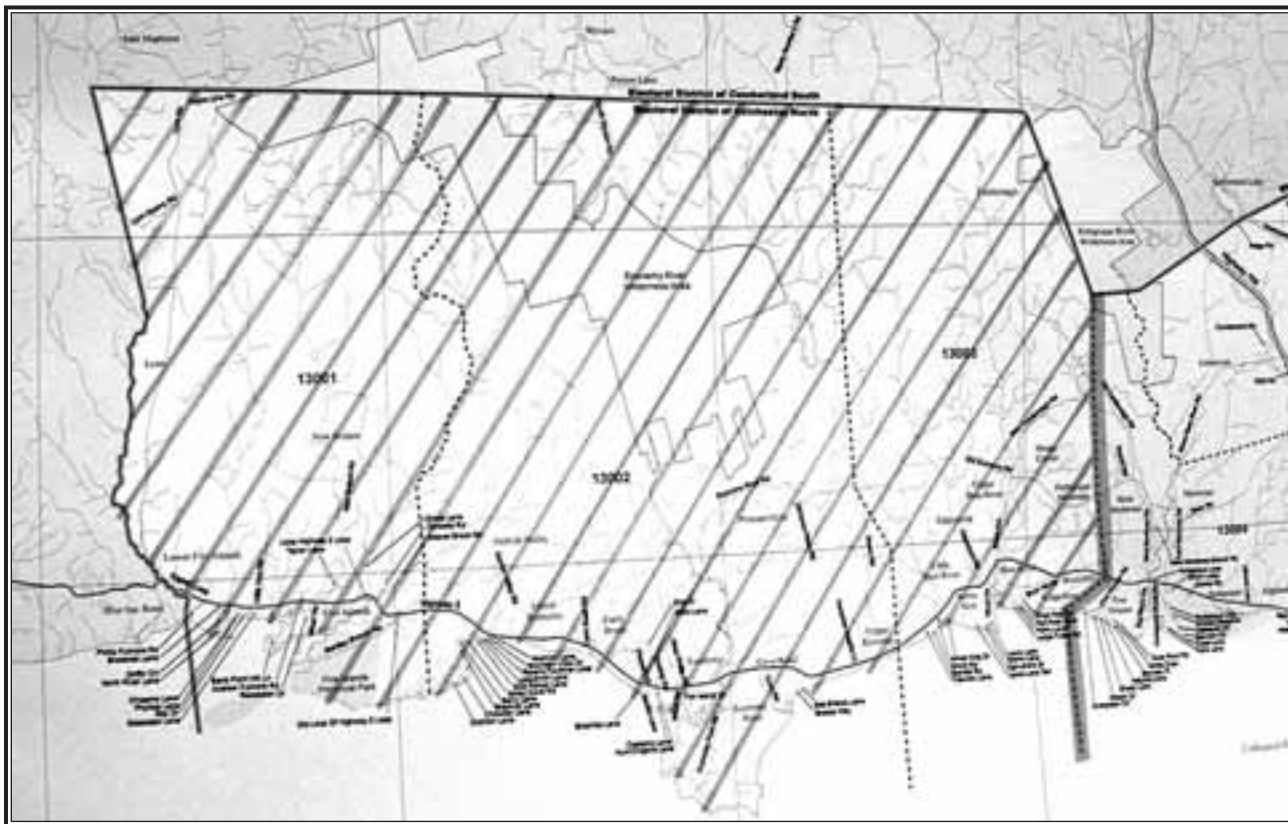
The report recommends Cumberland South would expand eastward into Colchester County, to include Bass River and west (from Colchester North). This constituency is to be renamed Cumberland-Fundy Shore.

Colchester North will follow the shoreline of the Minas Basin to a point just west of Five Houses Road. It would then run north-east and intersect Highway 2 just west of Five Houses Road, where it would then run north following the Cumberland and Colchester county line to the shores of the Northumberland Strait.

There is no change proposed for Cumberland North.

Communities of Five Islands, Economy and Bass River, up to the Five Houses Road, would now be included in the newly named constituency of Cumberland Fundy Shore.

For more detailed information visit <http://nselectoralboundaries.ca/publications/Electoral-Boundaries-Interim-Report-EN.pdf>



Communities in Five Islands, Economy and Bass River will possibly be voting in a new constituency for the next Provincial election, if proposed changes go ahead. Once part of Colchester North these areas will become part of a newly named Cumberland Fundy-Shore Constituency.



On Wednesday evening, June 13th a large group of Willow Street and gathered at the entrance to MP Scott Armstrong's Office in Truro in protest of the Bill C-38 which was before the Parliament. (Don MacQueen Photo)

Economy & Five Islands News

By Ruth Thompson

Marietta and Ron Scott of Yarmouth spent a few days visiting with Marilyn Cock. I spent last weekend in Lower Sackville with daughter Janet, Brooke and Alexander. Brooke turned 17 on Father's Day. My how the time flies.

On June 11th the Peniel UCW ladies enjoyed a tasty and very filling lunch at the Cafe at the Age of Sail Heritage Centre in Port Greville. Oralee

O'Byrne, Curator/manager provided a guided tour through the museum and new Wind and Wave building. This was enjoyable, informative and definitely a "do again" experience.

The Get together club met on June 20 for a delicious supper at Mo's of Five Islands. The Economy U.C.W. also joined them. Tickets for the club on the handmade quilt are still available. If interested contact Mina Berry at 647-2406

On July 7th at the Economy Recreation Centre there is going to be a Salad, ham and strawberry supper from 4:30 to 6 P.M. It is always such a good supper. Come join a good meal sponsored by The Stewards of The Economy United Church.

Sympathy is extended to Olsen Field and his family on the passing of his brother Fred. Summer has arrived and the school children are out for the summer. Please be careful when out and about and kids enjoy your summer.

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