

REES' Pieces

Will the playing field ever be level?

What a turbulent month. The Dexter government's efforts to "backstop" the economies of the Northeastern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton and Western Nova Scotia by spending \$-Millions to prop up the forestry sector must seem like it's a money pit and a dead-end road.

Financial woes in Europe are disrupting economic growth, so much so the Chinese economy is on a downward slide. This has impacted export markets of nearly every product, no more so than newsprint, which has created another casualty with the closure of the Bowater Mersey mill in Liverpool.

Starting in 2008, the forestry sector has been dismantled with the collapse of housing construction sector as the USA economy nosedived. Each time progress seemed to be gathering steam to regenerate some economic activity, another wheel falls off the cart.

It's not just the forestry sector which has taken a beating. Every economic sector has open wounds. The retail sector of small locally owned businesses has deep lacerations as Big Box stores set up on the outskirts of town and are taking their lunch and dinner. To its credit the provincial government needs a pat on the back for removing many public sector jobs out of Halifax and putting them in Glace Bay, Truro, Shelburne and Digby. There are hundreds more public sector jobs, which should be moved to smaller communities, but the big obstacle here is union management who spoke in a very degrading manner about the most recent moves.

If they were serious about caring about the provincial economy, the NSGEU would be sourcing more leasable space for offices around the province instead of spending \$11-\$14-Million for a new complex in Burnside and placing obstacles in the way of government's efforts to rejuvenate the rural economy.

The tourism sector is another example of what a crumbling economy can do. Six years is a long time to tread water, and many people are getting tired and getting out of the business they were in. If they are not getting tired themselves, their properties are starting to show the affects of a dwindling economy.

Government has been right in providing mega-bucks to Irving Shipyards to modernize Halifax Shipyards, but I am not sure \$260-Million was the correct figure, when balanced against what is needed outside HRM.

Let's presume 260 was the right figure and HRM represents approximately 60% of the provincial economy. Mathematically, one can say to be fair to the rest of the province, the current government should be spending \$173-Million for similar economic engines. I can account for about \$70-Million in three projects. \$25-Million to keep the NewPage mill in hot idle; \$25-Million was promised for Bowater Mersey and more recently \$25-Million to help Cooke Aquaculture build a processing plant in Shelburne, with addition monies being invested in Digby and elsewhere around the province. That leaves about \$100-Million to spread around the remainder of the province.

The Irving Shipyards will be over two years before cutting steel and Cooke Aquaculture will be at least 18-24 months before there is much job growth towards the 450 jobs they hope to create. So let's go back and have a look at tourism. It's the one sector of the economy, which an immediate injection of funding would generate immediate returns - within 12 months.

I don't know what the program would look like, but they need upfront cash to help improve their properties and expand marketing efforts. The program could be further enhanced with no cash outlay, by allowing improved properties to have an accelerated rate of depreciation of over a three year period. And oh yes, \$10-Million should go to reopen our most westerly gateway to the United States Market. With the right vessel, there is a ready market of 60+ million New Englanders, requiring very little persuading to enjoy mini-cruises and weekend getaways to Yarmouth and other parts of Southwestern Nova Scotia.

As I end this column, you'll notice I didn't get on my high horse about the Electoral Boundaries Commission. The refusal of the interim report just demonstrates the Dexter government is cherry picking to gain a seat or two over being fully committed to re-developing rural Nova Scotia.

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:

The Colchester North PC Association Executive unanimously supports the lobbying efforts of County Counsellor Tom Taggart, who has taken a leadership position in disputing the Colchester North boundary change proposed in the Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission's Interim Report. This change would move the boundary from the Colchester County line east of Blue Sac Road to just west of the Five Houses Road, moving polls 13001, 13002 and 13003 into the Cumberland South riding.

The natural boundary should be the Colchester-Cumberland County line. Simply put, these citizens reside in Colchester County. Their Municipal County Councillor represents them in the Colchester County Municipal Government. Based on the feedback we've received, most of the residents from Five Islands to Bass River work and shop in Colchester County.

It seems intuitive that the provincial electoral boundary reflect this. Colchester North PC Association will not abandon the citizens of the Shore. All of our area VP's from Debert, Bass River, North River, Tatamagouche, Valley support keeping the Colchester North riding intact. Some of our most generous volunteers, donors and most importantly family and friends reside there. We will continue to lobby on their behalf.

Respectfully,
Glen Rankin, President
Colchester North PC Association

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of The War Amps Operation Legacy, in which members of the Association's Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program help preserve and commemorate Canada's military heritage by teaching others about the important sacrifices of our



Dear Maurice:

The following is text of a letter I sent to the Nova Scotia Electoral Boundary Review Commission:

To Nova Scotia Boundary Review Commission,

Please accept my concern over the 1st draft of your review and my opinion going forward. My name is Tom Taggart I am the municipal councillor for District 10 in Colchester County. My District runs from the Cumberland County line in Five Islands to just east of Masstown. The proposed boundary changes will split this district in half.

As well, I am a lifetime resident of Bass River which is located within Colchester County, but will be part of the proposed new Cumberland South Fundy Shore riding.

Please be aware that with the exception of the residents of Five Islands, it is my opinion, the majority of the residents that are being included in the new riding would traditionally migrate toward Truro for work, doctors, banking etc and as such have no real connection with Cumberland County.

I would also like to note that according to your web site you held public consultations on this issue. The nearest location to us was Amherst, which is considerable distance from my home and has no real connection to the residents of West Colchester, who in my opinion, would be adversely affected by the changes.

As I understand it, you have been tasked with reviewing your decision and

fallen soldiers and veterans.

Of the more than 45,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who gave their lives in the Second World War, 10,000 were in Bomber Command - one of the most dangerous occupations of the war.

On June 28, the Queen will be unveiling the Royal Air Force Bomber Command Memorial in central London, UK. To mark the unveiling, The War Amps is releasing a memoir in its Canadian Military Heritage Series called *Grandpa's War in Bomber Command*, a personal account of the experiences of the late Jack W. Singer. As well, members of Operation Legacy will be donating copies of the memoir to their local libraries.

insuring each riding's total electors is within 25% of each other.

When doing so please consider the traditional travel patterns as well as Municipal boundaries when doing so.

As well, I would like to voice my concern with adding 2 seats to the Halifax Region and removing 2 so-called rural seats.

I believe there needs to be some recognition Nova Scotia is a very geographically diverse province.

There is no question Halifax is growing at the expense of the rest of the Province. Using the 25% rule will continue to grow the power base in Halifax.

While I understand the concept of equal representation, there needs to be some recognition that the remainder of this province plays a vital role in the overall growth and well being of this province.

Secondly, we should consider the 25% rule in terms of fair representation.

It would seem logical that an MLA from say Halifax Citadel would find it much easier to represent their constituents who all lived within 5 miles of each other than an MLA from say Colchester North who has a 1 hour 30 minute drive from one end of their constituency to another.

Is that fair and equal representation?

Please do not take this to mean that we do not get the representation we deserve, as it is my opinion, we have been very well represented over the past 30 years by our MLA's of any political stripe.. Having

Born and raised in Toronto, Singer joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at age 19 and served as a bomb-aimer with No. 9 Squadron, RAF. He wrote this memoir for his grandchildren in 1998, and, following his wish, it is now being made available to a wider audience to help people understand how it really was in World War II.

Grandpa's War in Bomber Command can be purchased at a cost-recovery price of \$15, as well as in conjunction with The War Amps documentary *The Boys of Kelvin High*, at a special package price of \$25 by calling 1 800 250-3030 or visiting waramps.ca.

Sincerely,
Ian Selig, 19
Operation Legacy Member,
Middle Sackville

said that I wonder if when using the 25% rule you might consider giving population say a weight of say 60% and geographic a weight of say 40% and stay within the guidelines that have been laid out.

I feel it is wrong to carve up Nova Scotia based solely on population. Should this trend continue our true rural constituencies will soon become so-called minority ridings.

It is also my opinion our culture and way of life is every bit as unique and diverse as say, the French Shore or Preston.

Please consider this as you continue your work.

Yours Truly
Tom Taggart

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy

DEBERT:
Barnhill's Superette
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

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
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)

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