

REES' Pieces

Might it happen here? It did and will again

Gradually this year, we've seen attitudes switch to what could be called mutiny or revolt throughout the American political scene. Then in the past week, Britons decided to end their 40 year marriage leaving the European Union.

Of course USA and UK are not the only places where there is unrest, but a lot of the other countries are not as democratic as the UK and neighbours to the south. In Canada, we often say, we don't vote in a new government, we vote for the opposition as a way of showing displeasure.

In Britain's case, no sooner had the votes been counted, and may were feeling guilty they may have made the wrong choice voting "leave" to show their displeasure. It worked, but to their horror.

It's not likely to happen here for a while, but in hindsight it did. Canada was the current forerunner of public displeasure. Not even a year ago, Justin Trudeau went from third to a commanding first. In some areas as few as 100 people made the difference. 50 stayed home and 50 changed their vote toppling many popular good people.

That is more likely to happen federally because most MP's are farther removed from the electorate than provincial MLA's and much farther away than municipally elected. For any politician to avoid "the bum's rush", it is important to be seen listening, demonstrating you are doing something about it and delivering results.

An example of general discontent and unhappiness is health care, and it could migrate to education, because Nova Scotia never reaches the top of the list for student qualifications. Within the last couple of weeks I noticed an article by an Isle Madame Medical Doctor specializing in Palliative Care, who said the Minister of Health is not listening. A statement like that is somewhat correct, but should be rephrased to say, "The minister has failed to get his staff to listen and bring forward policies and programs, which more appropriately meet the needs, and to which the public perceive they need".

Unfortunately, the minister of any provincial department doesn't really make the decision. They rely on staff to do things, get things done and plan ahead. Yes, because they constantly meet with constituents, they know the situations being faced at the grass roots. If they could go the department on Monday morning and say, this is what needs to be done, ensure it gets done, they would be elected for life.

The public's perception is our future is determined by someone whose job provides a lot of benefits an excellent pension plan, spends most of their time in the public service without being accountable to what transpires in two or three decades, and most certainly don't have "any skin in the game".

Even before health or education face disasters, I think the Environment and Fisheries will be first to suffer a provincial electoral revolt. Climate change, impacts on the environment and a general unhappiness about performance put Environment on the front line.

There's a lot of people saying the minister is not strong; has caved in to big business regarding Alton Gas and higher salt content would have major negative impacts on the Shubenacadie River. (I live on the River, and this year I have noticed a substantial increase in the number of bass fishermen. Neighbours and other people who operate the river rafting businesses have commented about large schools an increased number of species in the water.

Many fishers on the Bay of Fundy are upset tidal turbines are being permitted without more consultation and scientific studies to establish a baseline of populations.

To anyone in government, of if you are elected, take heed. For several years, fishers, for the most part, have made very good money plying Nova Scotia's waters.

If they feel their future livelihood, or the environment is in danger, it won't take long for them to band together with a common voice and engage the support of the communities.

It would not be pretty.

If you are elected or in the public service thinking there is a labour union that intimidates you, wait until you are facing irate fishers across the province. It might take a few months, but the seeds were planted, because departments and staff did not listen.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Editor:

Mr Sproul's diatribe against Bill Casey seems more political than factual. Bill Casey was only elected 7 months ago, so Sproul's charge that economic stagnation was Bill's fault is hard to accept as a rational statement. What I can't understand is why after 6 years of study one month before the turbines are going to be deployed, all hell breaks out. I have been following this project for the last six years, and I have visited the FORCE site twice to see what is going on. There seem to be little of no opposition to the test until this last month.

Does it mean in those six years the department of Fisheries did not do studies

and did not meet with the testers and the fishers during that time? If this is the case, maybe Mr Sproul should be more outraged that the former government cut all those scientist jobs from Fisheries and Oceans.

Like all new development that could benefit Nova Scotia, we should not trade jobs on one side to generate jobs on the other. The province has to find the best fit that will benefit the local economies. It is hoped that we do not have to start from scratch again to evaluate this project, because governments or others did not do their jobs.

**Pat Saxton
Oxford, NS**

PS: I found you paper in the liquor store in Truro, and it was nice to read something local that was not only who visited who. I plan on signing up and hope you expand your coverage to Cumberland North as well.

Hi, Maurice:

Thanks so much for your kind offer to help locate MICHELLE BEATON.

As I mentioned, her late sister — RUTH MACGILLIVRAY — was a lifelong and very close friend of my uncle, BEN POLSKY.

Ruth had moved to Montreal in the 1950s and worked for Bell Canada until she retired. She died in 2007 (the obit is

at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/montrealgazette/obituary.aspx?n=ruth-macgillivray&pid=93256393>)

My uncle Ben died this week and my father — RUBY POLSKY — would like to let Ruth's family know.

We will appreciate any help or clues that you can offer. Thanks in advance...

**Sharon Polsky
Alberta**

(NOTE: We have purposefully withheld Ms Polsky's phone number. If you have information, please contact the Shoreline Journal and we will relay to the appropriate people.)

Fill 'er up! Chiganois Receives \$2750 Grant from DuPont Pioneer

By Linda Harrington
Chiganois Elementary Parent Teacher Group (PTG) President Paula Putnam was thrilled to recently receive word the school had been awarded a \$2,750 grant from DuPont Pioneer Full Belly! Full Mind! Program. The program supports school and community-based nutrition programs.

"We filled in the application with the hopes of getting enough funding to support a new water bottle fill station and water bottles for all the students," says Paula. "The existing water fountains are not water bottle friendly and the PTG was really hoping to encourage students to drink more water."

Amanda Eisses, represented Dupont Pioneer at the official cheque presentation on June 17th and says the company was very happy to award Chiganois Elementary a grant for the full

request of \$2750.

The PTG recently ordered the water bottle fill station and preceded to place an order for the water bottles from Wildflower Promotional Products. "We were very surprised and pleased when Bob White at Wildflower donated an additional \$500 towards upgrading the water bottles," says Paula.

The water fill station has been received at the school and will be installed by CCRSB personnel as soon as possible. Students will each have their own brand new water bottle when they return to school this fall with convenient access for filling.

Any breakfast and nutrition programs interested in applying for this funding can request the application package by contacting their local Pioneer sales representative.

See photo on page 26

Masstown Community News

By Christine Urquhart

It seems like spring just arrived, then in the blink of an eye it's summer! Many yards are filled with flowering bushes, especially roses, which seem to have more flowers this year than in past years. I do so love the smell of roses as I walk around our home! With the windows open you can even smell them in the house!

With June ending we start looking ahead to July. There will not be any Canada Day activities at the Masstown Community Park this year. This is due to a few things - Canada Day is on a Friday this year, which means a long weekend and many folks away, our little Community Association has only a few members and some of them just can't be around, and lastly, I have just had more surgery and have to take it easy for a bit. Therefore, look forward to Natal Day at The Park on Monday August 1st!!!

The Annual Strawberry Supper - which is a ham salad plate supper with strawberry

shortcake - will be held on Wednesday July 6th from 4:30 to 6pm at the Debert Fire Hall. Adults \$12, children under 12 \$6. Take outs available. The proceeds from this supper go to the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge. Hope to see you there!

Due to my illnesses we have not held a Refundable Drive (I had two surgeries in May and one in June) but we are still collecting refundables. Please feel free to either drop them off at the Masstown United Church (back vestry door) or take them to John Ross' and tell them they are for our Church. Thanks to all

of you who do this! I hope to be able to arrange a Refundable Drive come September.

Masstown UCW enjoyed a fun closing at the cottage of Irene Gratto. Along with our Masstown UCW ladies were ladies from Glenholme UCW, Debert UCW, and from our Church congregation. Lots of wonderful food and the fellowships were great! Thanks to Irene for again hosting this time of good food and good fellowship.

Condolences go out this month to Ardieth McCully and her family on the death of her mother Doris McCully.

May the sun shine throughout the day and the rain fall gently at night.

Community Activity Notices

July 1: There will be NO Canada Day activities at the Masstown Community Park

July 6: Annual Strawberry & Ham Plate Supper. Debert Fire Hall, 4:30 - 6pm. Adults \$12, children under 12, \$6. Take outs available.

Aug 1: Natal Day Activities at the Masstown Community Park, 1-3pm. Everyone Welcome!

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) 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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