

REES' Pieces

Legions still have a meaningful purpose

Donnie Fraser was a happy guy on Thursday, June 22 when his name was drawn during the Debert Legion's Chase the Ace weekly draw. The ace and his name were drawn and he took home \$58,570. Chase the Ace initiatives have been the rage for the past few years and a great "local" fund raising source for many organizations. We all dream about winning millions in the 649 or MAX weekly lotteries, but there is no local content. When an organization such as the Debert Legion undertakes a similar event, not only are they raising money for their needs, but they are helping the community by hosting a weekly social event.

With the advent of social media, people are losing communication skills with family, neighbours and friends. Instead of having a face-to-face conversation some people will text someone in the next room, or even sitting in the same room. The long term prognosis is not good. That's where organizations like the Debert Legion are continuing to help the community.

The aging of vets, even from the Korean War, and lack of interest by recent Armed forces retirees has eroded membership in many branches. Changes in society, "drinking and driving laws, which is a good thing, have made life difficult for legion branches to retain their prominence in the community.

Congratulations to Debert Legion executive for climbing aboard the "Chase the Ace" bandwagon and sharing proceeds with other community groups. It's been a long while since the Debert Legion had as much money in the bank. Good wishes and heart-full thanks to those who played every week.

This proves, legions are still important and with some minor tweaking of their priorities, they have a long and necessary purpose to constantly be the gelatin to hold a small community together.

Now I'll get onto another topic, which is holding back rural communities from reversing the population drain to attract residents and businesses. My gripe is the deplorable way all levels of government have handled the internet file. Governments have tried, spending millions of dollars and failed.

Instead of making decisions for today, politicians and bureaucrats need to take a few lessons from the history book and apply them in today's society. Rural Canada built this great country. In the beginning, it was a massive expanse of forest, water and some good cleared agricultural land.

In Nova Scotia during the age of sail communities like Maitland, Great Village, Bass River and along water's edge communities were thriving with shipbuilders, many of whom sent their larger vessels to Parrsboro for installation of masts and further outfitting. Nova Scotia is reported to have had the largest registered tonnage of all ships on the water - globally.

Folklore in Maitland Hants County says on October 27, 1874 approximately 4,000 people were in Maitland to watch the launching of the W. D. Lawrence. She was the largest wooden sailing ship of her day, one of the largest wooden ships ever built and the largest sailing ship ever built in Canada.

If Nova Scotians could be global leaders 144 years ago, why can't we be on a similar pedestal today?

Have we lost our way or is it a lack of leadership?

If today's politicians, at all levels, put all shoulders to the wheel, we could re-gain our prominence. Rural residents are begging for high speed internet. The population drain of rural areas and increased competitiveness for rural businesses would immediately result.

Sure it will take \$-millions, but the technology is there. Governments have to stop spending thousands of taxpayer dollars on consultants to develop reports which the contents are not shared with all other government levels and those working to bring competitive internet service to rural areas.

It will take a combination of fibre, wireless and satellite technology to get the job done. In the past governments did not want to include satellite as part of the solution, preferring to deal only with large national communication companies. Now it's reported they are realizing internet service in some areas is unaffordable unless satellite technology is utilized.

Once we rebuild rural Nova Scotia, as a province, we can be a global leader once again.

Let's stop fooling around. Let's get the job done soon.

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
(902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Dear Editor:

Continuing their trend of centralizing decision making in Halifax, Stephen McNeil's Liberals have hurled another insult at rural Nova Scotia.

In the name of 'efficiency' the Department of Environment has told Nova Scotia's remaining abattoirs that they need to start scheduling slaughter operations two weeks in advance, and they can only begin after 8 am. These changes mean the de-

partment will be less flexible about scheduling provincial meat inspectors, who must be on site during operations.

It is a decision that is completely out of touch with the needs of abattoirs and the farmers they service. If the Department insists on going ahead, one farmer told the NDP Caucus it would be "yet another nail in the coffin of rural Nova Scotia."

Abattoirs like Dickie's Meats have said they may be

forced to lay people off, or shut down completely. Losing even one more abattoir would have serious ripple effects through the whole local food economy - from farmers markets to truck mechanics - costing jobs, impacting tourism, and reducing Nova Scotia food security.

Time and time again the McNeil Liberals have proven they are incapable of listening, but farmers are speaking out and I hope this time is differ-

ent. These changes are not set in stone. The Department still has time to back down and work with local farmers to keep our rural communities thriving.

Sincerely yours,
Lenore Zann

NDP Spokesperson for Environment

NDP MLA Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River

Council Excludes Public

By Maurice Rees

On May 31st, the media were advised via email from Tracey Veno, Colchester's Deputy Clerk / Executive Assistant stating, "This email is to let you know that there will not be a presentation meeting on June 5". From that email one would conclude councillors would not be meeting, which seemed understandable since councillors and some staff had spent several days attending Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Meeting in Halifax.

On the morning of June 6th, the Shoreline Journal learned councillors, some staff and legal counsel had met the previous evening. Upon investigation, it was learned council, without any advisory to media, had met in what was originally planned as a workshop with some staff members to discuss further development of a "Code of Conduct".

A search of the county's website for meetings and events going back to 2013 did not reveal notification of the June 5th meeting, which could lead to the conclusion a meeting regarding "Code of Conduct" without public or media presence was preferred.

According to Department of Municipal Affairs regulations other than regular council meetings, for which public notice is not required, other meetings must be preceded by three days notice to councillors and two days notice to the public.

Apparently when the meeting started it was learned staff were seeking direction which prompted Dennis James, council solicitor, to suggest the format of the meeting be changed to "council committee meeting". Had the public or media known about the meeting they would have been able to attend.

Approximately a year ago council agreed to develop a

Code of Conduct following resignation of District 9 councillor, Doug MacInnes, who cited racist comments by some councillors as reason for his decision. Subsequently, provincial minister of Municipal Affairs mandated all councils must have a Code of Conduct.

As of this writing, the Shoreline Journal has not been able to determine why Colchester Council decided to hold meetings without the normal public advisory of a council, or council committee meeting, when the subject matter is "Code of Conduct".

We will continue to ask for answers and determine if a non-advertised meeting of councillors in council chambers is appropriate and does it meet the litmus test of transparency on a matter, which was very contentious over a year ago.

In an attempt to determine legal requirements concerning public notice for council meetings, the following information is listed in the following website:
<https://nslslegislation.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/municipal%20government.pdf>

Under Section 19 the following appears: Council meetings 19 (1) Notice of regular council meetings is not required. (2) In addition to regular meetings, the council may hold such other meetings as may be necessary or expedient for the dispatch of business at such time and place as the council determines, if each council member is notified at least three days in advance and the clerk gives at least two days public notice of the meeting. (3) Where the mayor or warden determines that there is an emergency, the council may meet without notice or with such notice as is possible in the circumstances.

Further down in Section 19, section (7), the following appears: A meeting of the council is not an illegal or invalid meeting by reason only of (a) a failure to give notice; or (b) meeting elsewhere than provided in the by-laws, a policy or a notice of meeting. 1998, c. 18, s. 19; 2004, c. 7, s. 3.

Section 7 suggests the council committee meeting on June 5th was not illegal, but raises the question why would council members want to meet without public notice on a matter of a Code of Conduct, which was so contentious over a year ago?



Amanda Grant has joined the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce as Events Coordinator. The chamber organizes or hosts over 50 events throughout the year. (Submitted)

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store
BIBLE HILL:
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart
FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands
GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop
Glenholme General Store
GREAT VILLAGE:
Wilson's Gas
MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store
MASSTOWN:
Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)
MILLBROOK:
Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites
NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery
PARRSBORO:
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave
TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:
Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary;
Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:
Maurice Rees, Publisher,
902-647-2968, or E-MAIL:
maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.50 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$45.00
HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

All rights reserved. Material published in The Shoreline Journal may not be reproduced in an form without prior approval of the publisher. Material to be returned to sender must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

1996 Heritage Award recipient. Listed with Canadian Advertising Rates & Data (CARD) and Bowden's Media Monitoring Service.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada. | **Canada**

The publisher is not responsible for minor errors in ads, which do not lessen the value of the item(s). The publisher is not responsible for space beyond that portion of the advertisement containing the item(s) in error. Letters to the editor are subject to editing or rejection, must be signed by the author and contain a phone number.



NEWSPAPERS ATLANTIC
TRUSTED | CONNECTED | TARGETED