

REES' Pieces

"Guessing Game: .08+/-"

Without a doubt since February the world has been tilted on its head with such speed it compacted the centuries of affects the industrial revolution had on all countries into a span of a couple of weeks and there was no stopping anything.

First it was CoVid-19 that quickly became a pandemic claiming over 120,000 deaths in the United States, with well over 2-million testing positive. Canada has certainly had its hands full, trying to slow its spread and lessening its deadly results. I must say I was impressed with how diligent Prime Minister Trudeau was with daily updates and the speed which he announced many initiatives to help soften the blow on the economy.

Provincially Premier McNeill and Doctor Strang adopted roles of dedication and consistently like I have never seen in my 55+ years in this business. Yes, there were mistakes, and some people have tried to take advantage of the speed in which assistance was rendered. The good thing about their approaches was "no sugar coating", just sincere explanations and directions of what was required from each of us to slow down the community spread.

Towards the end, many people were complaining, McNeil and Strang were going too slow and keeping us confined. History will show their approach was correct for the "time" and they did not waiver an inch until they were comfortable.

The "new" normal will continue to be practicing safety with masks and social distancing until vaccinations will help replace some of the dangers. We best be prepared to follow these practices for a long time, other wise the community spread will erupt again and the economy may have to be "shut-down" again.

You best be good, or you might be confined to an additional three months of "house arrest."

The pandemic occupied our attention late winter and all spring, but now it is in a tie fighting for headline prominence with accusations and plenty of videos regarding racism. Around the world, racism demonstrations have become vogue, with USA and Canada getting lots of traction.

The pandemic is a health situation that needs our careful attention, but racism has deep roots going back many generations and will probably be more difficult to solve, because it will require emotional and attitude changes. In a health crisis, affects are normally rather visual. Observing safety guidelines or a vaccine may keep things at a manageable, but most of racism is invisible and a mindset.

Yes, there are thousands of examples of mistreatment, or abuse of minorities, different ethnic backgrounds and persons of colour. In some instances life threatening injuries or death has resulted.

As the headline of this column suggests the most horrific instances of racism are reported to have happened in British Columbia. In one emergency department of at least one hospital, and there are suggestions it is more widespread, medical staff including doctors and nurses would play a game with incoming patients.

It was called, "Guess the .08 reading". Entire staff in the Emergency Room at that hospital would try to guess – the blood reading of incoming patients, who had been drinking. The colleague who was closest to the reading without going over, would win.

How sick can minds be? If these minds belonged to people who had very little education and perhaps had been raised in an environment of racism, we would know how to deal with it, and what education was needed. However, these are professional healthcare workers whom we trust with our health.

Let's hope for the sake of removing racism from our society, such thoughts are not hibernating in professionals such as judges, lawyers, educators and politicians. We need those people to help provide the education and training tools.

We all have "anthills obstructing us in many facets of life and normally we can get over or go around them. However, we are not skilled mountaineers. It's time for residents demand this stop and solutions should be implemented immediately.

"We are all in this together". It will take all of us to provide solutions.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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A Light Leading Through the Darkness to a New Dawn for All

We often hear about senseless tragedy happening elsewhere outside our communities, however, what took place recently over a period of hours in a number of communities from Portapique to Wentworth, then to Milford gave a new meaning to terrorism, mass shooting, burning and so much death which took place in our province.

When the rampage was over some 22 innocent per-

sons lost their lives and families torn apart were left to deal with the terrible loss and an uncertain future.

Through the pain of loss, fear, searching and sickness emerged a coming together by neighbours and strangers in their desire to lend a hand of caring, love and support. The expressions of sympathy through various testimonials and the slogan, "Nova Scotia Strong" will lead us out of this darkness of pain and grief which accompanies unspeak-

able loss. There is a cohesiveness among the dear people in each of these communities which continues to grow throughout our province and beyond.

I have had the good fortune of teaching hundreds of students at Central Colchester Junior High School in Central Onslow, Nova Scotia. Although I did not teach the victims of this tragedy, the names of many are familiar as I would have taught some of their family members.

I feel a deep sorrow within my heart for all of the good people in this beautiful part of Nova Scotia. You are not alone in your grief as we hold you in our hearts. Let us thank God for leading us on our journey of remembering, love, peace and hope.

Respectfully yours,
Kevin O'Neil, retired educator,
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Minister Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Government of Canada

Minister Mark Furey
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
Government of Nova Scotia

Dear Ministers Blair and Furey,

We are calling for the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia to immediately launch a joint and equally-led public inquiry into the recent Nova Scotia mass shootings and related events.

Amidst a pandemic that has shut down major parts of the economy and imposed barriers to human connection, Nova Scotia has faced the deadliest mass shooting incident in Canadian history. In the chaos that unfolded in mid-April, twenty-two Nova Scotians lost their lives. The murderer also brutally assaulted his spouse early on in the rampage. Canadians deserve to know what happened and what actions the police and others took or could have taken to prevent or better mitigate this situation.

As independent Nova Scotia Senators, we understand the need to tackle all issues surrounding this tragedy in an objective, unbiased and nonpartisan manner. A joint inquiry would help everyone better understand what transpired and to learn from this tragedy. If properly conducted, the joint inquiry could lead to changes to policies, practices and procedures and hopefully give us the tools to prevent future tragedies of this nature.

We are of the opinion that this public inquiry must include a detailed assessment of multiple issues, including but not limited to:

What are the details of what unfolded over the 13 hour killing spree and what occurred in the time leading up to that period?

What was the role (if any) of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Why was the provincial emergency alert system not initiated?

Why was there a delay in sharing the information regarding the murderer's impersonation of an RCMP officer?

When stopped by police, the perpetrator was possibly heading into a highly populated urban area, what plans did the police have to intercept him before that occurred?

How did the perpetrator acquire his weapons and what can be done so that in the future, others will not be able to do so?

Careful what you mean "back to normal"

By Jim Harpell

As we continue to live under the Covid-19 restrictions, more and more people are talking about how wonderful it will be to get back to "normal".

Let's take a moment or two to think about this. It reminds me of Donald Trump's call to the American people to "Make America Great Again". I will not go any farther down that road.

So, what have we seen happening since the restrictions have been put in place? Globally, people

What were the problems in the processes designed to ensure identification and effective response to previous reports of domestic violence, threats and weapon acquisition that involved the perpetrator?

What caused a breakdown in communication amongst federal - provincial jurisdictions?

What are the communication protocols between Halifax Regional Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police related to the special warning(s) that was issued and were all protocols followed?

What changes in law are required to have multiple reports of violent misogynistic behaviour addressed by not just police, but by mental health experts as well?

How can we better conduct threat assessments in our communities to avoid these kinds of tragedies?

We strongly believe that the inquiry must address the social and public safety issues which are related to this tragedy, and not just focus on the details of how the RCMP responded to the events as they unfolded.

A feminist lens will be critical to the inquiry's success. Transition House Association of Nova Scotia, Women's Shelters Canada, Feminists Fighting Femicide and the Canadian Women's Foundation point out that chronic spousal abuse and misogyny are often linked to larger violent acts in our society.

We must seek to change how the current system addresses this violence. Following a tragedy, the warning signs become abundantly clear, but law enforcement and other responders must be equipped to intervene before harm is inflicted.

We, like many Canadians, are committed to improving public trust in those whose duty is to serve and protect and to provide them with the necessary tools to succeed.

We look forward to an immediate announcement of a comprehensive, thorough and fulsome public inquiry, jointly and equally led by the federal and provincial government, that addresses the details of this event as well as the complex social and structural issues that are related to it.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Mary Coyle
Senator Colin Deacon
Senator Stan Kutcher

in Northern India who were born since the 1980s have been able to see the great mountains to the north, of which Everest is one, for the first time in their lives. The people in Beijing who have long suffered from air pollution can breathe easier. Even though they are now still wearing masks, it is because of the virus, not air quality.

The quality of the atmosphere has improved with the carbon dioxide level dropping dramatically. This is due, to a large extent, to people not hopping in their vehicles to drop down to the

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The Shoreline Journal

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Dominion Chair Factory Store

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C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

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MAITLAND:

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MILLBROOK:

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