

Rees' Pieces

Enjoy the upcoming freedoms, but be careful

Everyone will welcome the forthcoming escape from CoVid lockdown restrictions, as we move into a phase where the pandemic has been wrestled almost into submission. However, we must be aware with the new Delta variant it could raise its ugly head and set us back into another lockdown, which will be more difficult to accept that what we have experienced in the past 18 months.

We must be prudent and aware CoVid-19 or various strains will be among us for decades, just like mumps, measles, polio and Tuberculosis (TB). We may want to always have a mask at the ready.

Because Nova Scotians did as we were told, "Stay the Blazes Home", we have been able to work our way out of the pandemic with far fewer infections and deaths per capita than other provinces. As the numbers recede, Premier Rankin and professional health officials are giving us the opportunity to move around the province, meet up with friends and even give a hug to those we love, plus travel throughout the Atlantic region.

Regardless how much movement we are given over the next few weeks, it is still to be determined how much communal living we are allowed and from what areas (provinces and states) Nova Scotians will be allowed to welcome as visitors to Canada's Ocean Playground.

If you recall in this column in the May issue, I forecasted had it not been for the recent surge we would have gone to the polls and elected a new provincial government. At the beginning of the article, I suggested with the May surge Rankin would probably delay dropping the writ with an election date between August 20th and September 21st. Of course that is a projection. Rankin could pull the plug earlier for an election date earlier in August.

It was interesting to see Jim Vibert, a communications advisor to five governments turned writer, in his Chronicle Herald article on May 29th suggest "Barring yet another COVID crisis expect a provincial election call pretty close to Labour Day, too".

As unusual as it might seem with fewer CoVid restrictions, we might welcome some "old-fashioned" retail politics whereby we could get out to mingle with friends and attend some political rallies. An election call would give us something else to think about and maybe voter participation might increase above the 2017 level of 53% back to historic levels approaching 70% which occurred in post war years up to the early 1990's.

One political poll taken in late March and early April suggested the Liberal fortunes had risen to a favourable lead of 24% over Houston's Progressive Conservatives. However with CoVid fatigue and many feeling the lockdown was too severe, it is understood the polls have tightened and Rankin's popularity has receded a bit, but has a strong lead.

I suggest, for a first time in a long while, the outcome will depend more on the quality of candidates in each of the 55 constituencies, rather than leadership from a caucus office. Rankin and Houston are unproven as effective provincial leaders.

Globally, as the USA government attempts to find the origin of CoVid pandemic, any blame or restrictions placed on China will be political in nature. If we feel China is a threat to dominance and trade, we (North Americans and Europe) democracies must turn their attentions to changing the supply chains, which would hurt China economically and create high paying domestic jobs and increase self-security.

We must embark on a process to increase research and development to reduce the volume imports from elsewhere. Focus should first be placed on high value items like medical supplies, computer chips, intelligence and similar items which cause us to be vulnerable.

Canada could be a leader in these areas. Historically, we have a proven track record in many areas – polio vaccine – Canada Arm for space ships, and back in the days of sail being a global leader. Once we have focused on the high priced items, we can continue a program of other manufacturing, which we have let slip away over

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Editor:

As I was reading the May issue of the Shoreline Journal, I came across the part in the paper where Tom Taggart, our councillor for District 10 is running for the position of MLA. I was very glad to see this, as I know Tom will work as hard at this job as he has as councillor.

I am not a personal friend of Tom's nor do we share the

same political beliefs, but I would like to share this story with your readers.

I worked for the Department of Transportation for twenty some years as a winter equipment operator. I have witnessed how operators were treated when one political party changed to another and a new road foreman and superintendent came aboard. I think it was in 1989 when Tom

became superintendent of the Department of Transportation.

One of the requirements of the supers job was to keep the highways as safe as possible. From day one, Tom accomplished this goal by treating all of his operators with respect, regardless of their political beliefs.

It is therefore, my opinion, that Tom would be a good person for the position of MLA. He cares deeply for the people of all

communities. My wife grew up in the same community as Tom. She told me that Tom has always cared about family and people of the community.

I hope the Shoreline Journal will share my story with its readers.

I wish Tom Taggart the best of luck in the next phase of his life.

Lewis Phinney
Bass River, NS

Letters to the Editor...
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The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

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Dominion Chair Factory Store

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

DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:
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MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:
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MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

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TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
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MacQuarrie's Pharmasave
(Esplanade)
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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; Chignano 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

Statement from the Commanding Officer

Last evening, June 2, 2021, a local magazine published a story about the incidents on April 18 and 19, 2020, in central Nova Scotia. The article included audio recordings of 911 calls from some of the victims. Publishing the audio recordings demonstrate a disgraceful disregard for the victims and their families. This publication has chosen to make public the darkest time in these families' lives, with no regard for how it must feel to have to relive that tragedy in the public eye.

We have spoken to victims' families through our family liaison, and are assuring them that we will be investigating the source of the recordings and any related offences that may have occurred with respect to unauthorized release, possession and subsequent publishing.

Although we would not generally comment on matters that are the subject of a public inquiry and ongoing litigation, given the heart-breaking effect on victims' families and on our employees, we are publicly condemning the

publication of the audio recordings.

The RCMP supports the independent Mass Casualty Commission in its mandate to provide a full and impartial accounting of what happened in a manner that is compassionate towards victims' families who have lived through a level of trauma that most of us will never understand.

The RCMP is cooperating fully with the Inquiry and providing materials to the Commission on an ongoing basis to support it in its mandate to examine the incidents and provide meaningful recommendations to help protect Canadians in the future.

To review all of the information the RCMP has released publicly about the incidents on April 18 and 19, 2020, visit <https://www.rcmpgrc.gc.ca/en/ns/operation-h-strong>.

Sincerely,
Asst. Commissioner Lee Bergeron
Commanding Officer, Nova Scotia RCMP

Mass Murder Commission Issues Releases

Two events in May and June have caused the Mass Murder Commission to issue two press releases to clarify its position regarding the events. On June 2, the commission responded to publication of that audio recordings of 911 calls from the events of April 18 and 19, 2020, had been published by a FRANK 1 magazine and on May 7th issued a special statement after it learned an RCMP business card is providing confusion about whether there is a relationship between the RCMP and the Commission.

The June 2nd release issued by members: Hon. J. Michael MacDonald, Chair; Leanne J. Fitch (Ret. Police Chief, M.O.M.) and Dr. Kim Stanton in part stated: "The Mass Casualty Commission learned that audio recordings of 911 calls from the events of April 18 and 19, 2020, had been published by a local magazine. The Commission condemns the access and posting of the highly sensitive audio recordings posted this evening. The Commission does not support the publication of these recordings and requests that the magazine remove the content immediately. We are extremely concerned for the privacy of those

affected by the content, especially the child".

Those affected are asked to contact the commission's Community Liaison Director Maureen Wheller (Maureen.Wheller@maccasualtycommission.ca) or call 1 833-635-2501.

On May 7, 2021 a release from Emily Hill, Commission Counsel, Mass Casualty Commission stated: "The Mass Casualty Commission is aware that an RCMP business card is providing confusion about whether there is a relationship between the RCMP and the Commission. We want to provide clarity. The Mass Casualty Commission is an independent inquiry that has the responsibility, among other things, of reviewing the RCMP's activities with respect to the mass casualty events and their aftermath. The Commission does not employ anyone from the RCMP. We do not take any instructions from the RCMP. We are asking the RCMP to remove the card to avoid further confusion. We are reaching out to individuals and groups as well as the community to make them aware of our concern about the incorrect perception about our independence and to address any questions".

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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