

Rees' Pieces

It won't happen here – WRONG!!!

I wasn't sure where to start, or the topics I should try to cover this month. Still deliberating even though I've started.

We used to find comfort in saying, "It won't happen here". That comment would come from catching the news about something that went horribly wrong. However, I learned at an early age things can happen. I remember on one occasion my father, who was normally, quiet, calm and had it together was in a totally different frame of mind.

To help set the scene, he emigrated with his family at the age of 16 from Wales in 1927. Apparently in that era, there was a lot of coal mining in that area of Wales. On the farm outside Woodstock, as a youth I grew up without electricity until I was in early teens.

Listening to the radio was only at certain times because it was battery powered; batteries cost money and we didn't have much of it. Even at 10-11 years old, I detected a different mood and for a few days father would listen intently to every newscast. If memory serves me correctly I thought it was 1957, but on checking Springhill Mine Disasters it could have been '56 or '58.

I researched a bit and found the following:

The 1956 explosion occurred on November 1, 1956, killed 39 coal miners, but 88 others underground were rescued because of improved equipment. Prior to the blast, a mine train was hauling a load of fine coal dust up to the surface of the Number 4 colliery for removal from the pithead, and encountered a heavy flow of ventilation air being forced down the shaft by surface fans. The flow of air disturbed the contents of the ascending train cars and spread fine (and highly flammable) dust throughout the air of the shafts of No. 4. Before the train reached the surface, several cars broke loose and ran back down the slope of No. 4, derailing along the way and hitting a power line, causing it to arc and igniting the coal dust at the 5,500-foot (1,700 m) level (below surface).

Springhill mining disaster may refer to any of three deadly Canadian mining disasters that occurred in 1891, 1956, and 1958 in different mines within the Springhill coalfield. In the 1891 accident, 125 died; in 1956, 39 were killed; and in 1958, there were 75 miners killed.

On November 1, 1956, 118 men were working deep in Springhill's No. 4 mine, when six cars of a loaded coal trip being pulled by a cable to the surface broke away and went hurtling down the slope. The cars jumped the track and crashed into an armoured steel cable carrying 2200 volts of electricity.

In the evening of October 23, 1958, a bump wracked No. 2 mine in Springhill. The underground earthquake sent floors, ceilings, and walls to meet each other, opened great chasms, poured coal and debris into open spaces to completely block levels, and cut off all communication below 7800 feet. In the immediate aftermath, 81 men made their way to the surface. Then from the depths was only silence.

It was the disasters in Springhill which reminded father of similar disasters back in his homeland.

Using Springhill as an example, "Yes, It Can Happen Here!" takes us out of our comfort zone that "It Won't Happen Here".

Times and the climate are changing. We need to prepare for what is coming or will be coming our way. Climate change will bring rising tides: Hence all levels of government must be prepared to spend up to \$800-Million maybe \$1-Billion to rectify the problems on the Chignecto Isthmus. Economic studies suggest a 12 day interruption would have a total value of \$1.2 billion. The preventative work will take at least 3 years to complete.

Think of the other things we thought would never happen here: Groundhog '76; Hurricane Fiona, (google Saxby Gale); wildfires in Yarmouth County, and Tantallon; gangland slaying and mass murders, we've had Canada's largest. See in this issue: untaxed cigarettes and drug smuggling; making 3D printed guns.

Get prepared. Change your thinking.

If you read about it elsewhere.....YES, IT CAN HAPPEN HERE.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Open Letter Demands Protections for 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth in Schools

As preparations for Pride Month observations in June were getting into gear across the province, health and education professionals and concerned parents were also making connections with one another, sharing their experiences of dangerous inconsistencies in how Nova Scotia's education system supports – and sometimes fails to support – 2SLGBTQIA+ children and youth.

Those connections have borne fruit this week, as a coalition of allied individuals and organizations addressed a new open letter to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development recommending specific actions to fully protect Nova Scotia's kids from sexual orientation and gender identity and expression change efforts (SOGIECE, aka conversion "therapy" or conversion practices).

Nova Scotia's Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students docu-

ment was last updated in 2014, and urgently needs updates to close unintended loopholes and reflect lessons learned, including recent legislation banning SOGIECE. The open letter also calls for first-voice 2SLGBTQIA+ representation on the Provincial Advisory Council on Education and other organizations within the Department of Education's purview.

Veronica Merryfield, founder of Cape Breton Transgender Network, says, "2SLGBTQIA+ children are being targeted where their safety should be assured. Many are choosing not to come out at school." Merryfield is increasingly concerned about the ripple effects on children's mental health and well-being, but sees room for hope. "With the rising tide of hate that's taking place – flag vandalism in schools, bullying, unsafe washrooms – I am pleased to see Nova Scotians responding with much-needed sup-

The Nova Scotia College of Social Workers serves and protects Nova Scotians by effectively regulating the profession of social work. We work in solidarity with Nova Scotians to advocate for policies that improve social conditions, challenge injustice and value diversity.

For more information or to arrange interviews with letter co-signers, please contact:

Rebecca Faria, communication coordinator for NSCSW, 902-429-7799 ext. 227, rebecca.faria@nscsw.org.

Parrsboro Hall Holds Annual General Meeting

By Patricia Burke

The Parrsboro Band Association held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 5:30 pm Bernie Burke Memorial Auditorium. Chairman Rob Bentley called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. The agenda was then reviewed, with no additions. The minutes of the last AGM March 27, 2021 were reviewed and approved with no errors or omissions. The minutes were then approved.

In his Chairpersons report he stated 2021 was both challenging and productive at The Hall. We continued to provide concerts virtually and movies and gatherings albeit in our ever changing form in order to follow the Public Protocols for the COVID 19 Pandemic. The solid support of the membership and many volunteers have enabled us to weather the present challenges while continuing to plan for the future. I am particularly proud of:

Community Leaders in Public Health for holding clinics at The Hall.

Providing live services when possible where people could watch from home.

He said he is excited about the future where all groups will be able to meet. We will be able to have St. Patrick's Day Kitchen Party, Plant Sale, Concerts in the Park, Band Day and so much more.

Rob then announced he was stepping down as Chairperson. Everyone thanked him for his time as Chairperson.

Treasurer's Report: Johannes reviewed the Financial Statement for 2021 in detail. He stated both 2020 and 2021 were both challenging years which shut down our fundraising. As for revenue we were down 38% from last year. He then extended a huge thank-you to all our volunteers and supporters who donated their time and assistance financially. He then announced he would be resigning as our Treasurer and this would be his final report after 13 years. He said he enjoyed working with the Board of Directors to save and restore "The Hall" for the future.

He thanked everyone for your trust in him and he wished "The Hall" all the best for the years to come. Everyone gave him a warm hand of applause for a job well done.

Committee Reports:

Communications - Patricia reviewed her report and said communications is the key to the organization in getting the word out to the people. This is how we have successful fundraisers by letting the public know in plenty of time. She thanked David Towns and Rob Bentley for their time getting the word out on the Website, Facebook and to our membership.

Membership - Nancy reported total membership in 2021 was 146. This is a drop in numbers due to COVID 19. We were unable to have events due to the shutdown and this is often where we see new members join and renewals.

Facilities - Garnet gave a great report for facilities stating the Back entrance roof had been re shingled by volun-

teers, a face lift for the Bell Tower with a new window and clapboards and the Upper Window has been ordered and the rest of the tower will be finished. There has been a major cleanup of the basement, a new door installed in the annex with swing out and push bar hardware, and furnace room door had door closer installed. Three fire extinguishers were replaced and furnaces have been serviced and new exhaust pipe installed. Furnaces are on borrowed time and the oil tanks expire in 3 years. Alternatives are being investigated.

Assessment of insulation requirements including a quote and action plan was completed as part of the alternative heat source investigation. Goal is to reduce heating costs and carbon footprint.

Music - Rob reviewed his yearly report saying that due to COVID 19 we were not able to have full rehearsals of Choir and King Street Strummers. During the lock down we provided

Virtual Open Mics and Social Distance Concerts. There has been many inquiries in the last 2 years of people wanting to join so when the restrictions lift we hope to welcome many new members.

Fundraising Report - Brenda reviewed her report and stated in the last year it has been difficult to hold any fundraisers due to COVID 19 virus. We trudged through and introduced an on line Valentine auction which was very successful and fun. We had a remote Plant Sale, Band Day, canteen at the Film Festival. She thanked everyone for their volunteer hours and food. Film Festival

Lori presented the Film Festival report which was its 10th year. Due to restrictions and social distancing we were only able to see so many passes. The Festival sold out. There were screenings on Friday evening, Saturday morning and evening and Sunday morning. On Friday evening we featured Tareq Hadhad, owner of Peace by Chocolate as our guest speaker. He was warmly welcomed and gave a great speech. Brenda thanked Brenda Wheaton, Nancy Curleigh, Rob Bentley and all the volunteers who made this happen.

Films - Lori reviewed the films stating that several times the films had to be shut down during restrictions but when protocols allowed people had to reserve their seats and social distance. There was a glitch in the operation of the drop down screen and was resolved by supporter Gardiner Patterson for a very minimal cost to the Association. Thank you

Nominations to the Board - There were new nominations to the board. Trish nominated Clarissa McCully to the Board. David Forbes seconded. All in favor.

The AGM was then closed.

The Board of Directors conducted a short meeting to choose the 2022 Executive: Chairperson, David Forbes; Vice Chair, Lori Lynch; Secretary, Clarissa McCully and Treasurer, Rob Bentley.

decision-making processes that profoundly affect their lives."

Members of the public who share the concerns raised by the open letter are encouraged to engage with their MLA, or virtually attend the NSCSW's upcoming panel discussion event on July 31, "Protecting the well-being of 2SLGBTQIA+ kids," which will feature several of the letter's supporters as panelists.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

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Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

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

DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:
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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; Chignois Elementary;
Central Colchester Junior High
School; Parrsboro Elementary and
Parrsboro Regional High School.

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