

REES' Pieces

IT'S TIME to be Positive

With all the negativity around the globe, I feel it is time to don the positive hat so we can maintain and further enhance the infamous Canadian reputation of Peacekeepers. If one tries to follow all the fighting and wars – Ukraine-Russia; Isreal-Gaza; Isreal-Iran; Trump being the bull in the china shop and this weekend USA bombing several locations in Iran and sending B-52 bombers on 24+hour mission to destroy several facilities in Iran this past weekend, it's no wonder people feel uneasy.

In turning the page to a more positive mindset, I thought for a while about what or who should have few positive words put to paper. Just as I was trying to make up my mind, an email arrived which after scanning the email it clinched and finalized my decision.

The email was from Tom Taggart, MLA. Again for the third month he gave a comprehensive outline of the problems at the Portapique Bridge on Trunk 2 and what can be expected to reopen the bridge and what will happen in the long term.

Shortly after the bridge was quickly closed in April, Tom allotted sufficient space in his monthly column in the May issue to outline why and what was going to happen during closure. He has continued for June and July issues.

To remind constituents, who are all impacted by the closure especially those who need to travel towards Masstown, Debert or Truro, I decided to print an excerpt from his three columns to highlight his thoroughness of looking out for local residents.

Here is an excerpt from May 2025 column: Earlier this month I received a call from Public Works that the Portapique Bridge was failing and needed to be closed and detoured. There was damage or deterioration to the piles on the Portapique side of the bridge. When I crossed it that night you could see the obvious dip on the upstream side. I asked if we could set up traffic lights and use just the downstream side which appeared to be solid. That was originally approved. Unfortunately, once the level 2 inspection was carried out, it was determined that the bridge was not safe for traffic. That brings us to today.

The plan is to drive piling on each side of the bridge and attach steel "I" beams that run under the bridge and support the weight in the same fashion as the current wooden piles that are currently directly underneath and are failing.

Sounds easy and straight forward! It is not that simple. There needs to be engineering done to ensure the structural integrity of the fix as well as the remaining bridge structure.

Here is an excerpt from June 2025 column: The Portapique bridge has had the drilling completed to determine the extent of the piling needed. The design work is underway and it should soon be ready for tender. Going through the tender process takes time and I am asking to have the work completed through alternative procurement which would speed it up considerably. I had originally said that I hoped to have the repairs complete by first of July. I am still hoping it will be completed in July.

Here is an excerpt from July 2025 column: Baring any kind of unforeseen obstacle it is my expectation that we will be travelling across the Portapique bridge before the next article is written. The east end of the structure will be reinforced and stable. It is my understanding that the bridge will now go into the queue for replacement at which time the current bridge will remain open and the new bridge will be constructed beside it. Hopefully that will happen in the next year or two.

To finish on Bridges, I note that a group of community minded individuals have taken on the challenge of repairing the historic community footbridge in Bass River. It will require significant work and financial resources.

My main points in sending accolades Tom's way is he is using print to communicate even the negative part in the beginning, but with regularity his focusing on facts he communicates there is hope.

Have a great July.

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

Roll on democracy!

If ever we get the chance to decide together our common future, we will not let any of us get a far larger part of the wealth and leave a large group with just enough to survive.

Of course, such a call for real democracy can hardly be understood these days, as everyone seems convinced, despite all evidence, that "representative democracy" is democracy. This has been repeated so many times, over such a long period of time, in

the mainstream media, that even several progressive forces are buying it.

I can already hear strong reactions. Oh, but this real democracy is not possible today, we are far too many. Nonsense! First, the technology is there; second, and more importantly, most decisions should be taken by the concerned people, directly or indirectly, not by absolutely everyone. Plus, we should realize that real democracy would eliminate a lot of issues raised

by the actual absence of democracy in terms of peace, fairness and environment.

Most of what we can do now is listening to the rich and powerful ones, laughing at us, despising us, protected by this fiction of democracy – the representative democracy. A time will come, I hope, for our own collective future and the future of our planet, that democracy, real democracy, will prevail.

Thank you
Bruno Marquis, Gatineau QC

OP-ED

Response to Carney's Defence Announcement

OP-ED: Response to Carney's Defence Announcement

(The following is a statement from Premier Tim Houston).

Our government welcomes Prime Minister Carney's commitment to invest in Canada's armed forces. This will better protect our country.

Nova Scotia is ready to step up to help protect Canada while creating good-paying jobs through manufacturing, technology and the development of the critical minerals and raw materials needed to rebuild our military right here.

We have a proud history of military service, with the most military members per capita across Canada.

Our province is home to a significant portion of Canada's military assets, including the country's most populated military base, CFB Halifax, the regional office of NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA), and the Canadian Coast Guard College in Westmount.

I look forward to hearing from Prime Minister Carney details for Nova Scotia's involvement in Canada's renewed focus on defence.

Doctors Nova Scotia welcomes new President

Dr. Shelly McNeil of Halifax, N.S., was installed as Doctors Nova Scotia's President for 2025-26 during the association's annual conference on Saturday, June 7, 2025. During her term, she will continue to focus on stabilizing primary care for Nova Scotians by working with health-system partners.

Dr. McNeil is an infectious diseases specialist based in Halifax. Although she loves her job, Dr. McNeil said she struggles with balancing the growing number of patients needing care with the time and resources available.

Her practice involves inpatient infectious diseases consultations at the QEII and IWK Health women's services. She also works in ambulatory clinics at the Dickson Building and in the new Bayers Lake Outpatient Centre.

Dr. McNeil was the Senior Medical Director of the COVID-19 Planning and Implementation Network, a multidisciplinary NSH group



Dr. Shelly McNeil

comprised of clinical and operational leaders who guided the health authority's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The group worked with system partners to mitigate the pandemic's impact on patients, their support people, physicians and staff.

She is a member of the Senior Leadership Team at NSH, where she serves as the Senior Medical Director of the Emerging and Re-emerging Infections Network (formerly the COVID-19 Planning and Implementa-

tion Network). The network guides the ongoing NSH response to COVID-19 and to new and re-emerging infectious diseases, such as measles, and ensures preparedness for future pandemics.

enjoy her most important title: grandmother.

Also on Saturday, Doctors Nova Scotia members endorsed Dr. Amanda MacDonald Green as President-elect for 2025-26. She is a family physician who practices in Windsor, Nova Scotia. In addition to serving two terms on the Doctors Nova Scotia Board she was the Board's representative on the Policy and Health Issues Committee.

Dr. MacDonald Green is an active member of the Section of Physician Leaders and she has completed several formal leadership programs. She is a strong advocate for medical learners and she has supported the association in working to reduce physician administrative burden. Her term as president will begin in June 2026.

Bible Hill Garden Club Requests \$1,000

At the June 12th council committee meeting the Bible Hill Garden Club requested \$1,000 funding through the Community Event Grant in support of the NS Provincial Exhibition Flower Show being held at the Exhibition

Grounds in Bible Hill during Exhibition week, August 5-10, 2025.

The organizing Committee is expecting upwards of 5,000 participants and followers to the exhibition grounds with participants from neighboring

communities and within the Province of Nova Scotia.

Craig Burgess, Director Recreation told council committee "Staff recommends supporting the event in the amount of \$1,000".

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
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

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: Maurice Rees

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.22 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$31.92

ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.20 • 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 any 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.

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada



NEWSPAPERS ATLANTIC
TRUSTED | CONNECTED | TARGETED

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.