

# REES' Pieces

## It's been hard to decide

This month, it's been hard to decide what to include in this column. The variety of potential topics is long and varied. High on the list have been: MLA expense accounts; out migration from rural Nova Scotia; perception of having to hide something, because MP's are blocking Sheila Fraser's desire to open up the book on over \$533-million spent by elected MP's and staff.

Or, I could continue about a subsidy to trappers, or cast my opinion on Biosolids, which Tom Taggart said, would be the subject matter of his next column.

Yes, the potential list also included the dire state of the province's tourism industry and lack of support to provide funding for student summer employment. On the bright side was the "Best of Colchester" initiative organized by the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce.

Instead of choosing one, I've decided to devote a sentence or two to each of the above. First I will deal with the positive.

**Best of Colchester.** A fantastic idea by the Truro Chamber permitting businesses and residents to feel good about the business sector in Colchester, which also includes Bible Hill, Truro and Stewiacke. It will be interesting when the people's choices are announced at the awards ceremony on June 17th.

**MLA Expenses.** What an embarrassing situation. It was either deceit or stupidity that infected all parties. If deceit, all involved should not be above the law. If stupidity, this province is really in trouble, because a lack of judgment at that level causes voters to wonder how capable are those in power to lead this otherwise great province. The worry is the arrogant attitude has infected all parties. Let's hope current leaders take a strong hand to rein-in all, including staff.

**Out migration.** The disappearance of young people from rural Nova Scotia to more urban areas continues at a rapid pace. Many can assume most political parties are abandoning rural areas. Might it be because there are more votes in urban centers?

**Blocking Sheila Fraser.** What a dumb move. Sure none of us like to be strip searched or to have a microscope planted on our private financial transactions. However, MP's should remember it is our money, and they work for us. I'm not saying they did anything deceitful or used poor judgment spending our money, but blocking the efforts of the auditor general does nothing more than send the perception there is something to hide. I would have hoped each MP would have welcomed Fraser's move. It will happen soon, the public will demand it before parliament ends for the summer recess.

**Coyotes.** I interpret this move as a subsidy to trappers. Now we have to wait until fall to donate \$20 of taxpayers' money. Within a week of MacDonell's announcement, a coyote was seen on the main thoroughfare in Maitland, about 200 feet from my house.

**Biosolids.** I'm not experienced on the subject, but unless someone can demonstrate otherwise, I don't want biosolids spread on agriculture land. Thank heavens; Atlantic Superstore has stated it will not buy produce grown on land that has been treated with Biosolids.

**Tourism.** If you talk to the operators, they are convinced this year will be another devastating year. Passports, the American economy and terrorism threats will not only keep the Americans away, but the high dollar will see a large number of Canadians spending vacations south of the border.

**Student Employment.** A large number of students will not earn the money they need to return to university or college this fall. Sure the economy is tough, but we need to invest in our youth. Maybe government should cancel future \$42,000.00 press conferences.

It would be interesting to see the results if someone was able to provide a public opinion, website to gauge public opinion in Nova Scotia. I hear there is one in the works.

Even though, I don't like to be negative, some of the above comments needed to be said. In closing on a positive note, go to the computer, log onto [www.trurochamber.com](http://www.trurochamber.com) and cast a vote for the 25 categories in the Truro Chamber's "Best of Colchester" contest. If you feel so inclined, Vote for the Shoreline Journal.

Maurice

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*

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Dear Editor:

Cottage season is here! Remember, install working alarms on each storey and outside all sleeping areas in your cottage. Please also check your local laws regarding carbon monoxide alarms.

Watch for our TV reminders featuring FishTV host Leo Stakos, and, heed these five tips:

1) Change all smoke alarm batteries at least once per year; 2) Replace all smoke alarms over 10 years old; 3) If your cottage has a fireplace,

or gas or propane appliances, install at least one CO 4) Clean heating appliances and BBQs before use. Ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets, are kept well away while grilling; 5) Check with local authorities for restrictions on campfires or burning brush.

Visit [www.safeathome.ca](http://www.safeathome.ca) for further tips. Enjoy the summer of 2010 while being fire and CO safe.

Chief Bruce Burrell,  
President, Canadian  
Association of Fire Chiefs

## Great Village Legion Notes

By Ken Kennedy

Branch 72 RCL Great Village will be holding a "Church Parade" to St. James United Church on May 30th at 10:00 a.m. This will be an ecumenical "Order of Divine Service" led by the branch chaplain assisted by members and friends of the legion. This is an annual event which signifies the beginning of "Decoration Day," when flags and crosses are placed upon the graves of ex-service members at cemeteries located within Branch 72's coverage area, that is from Glenholme to Lower Five Islands. This year the service will include the reading of names of those veterans who lie in the Mahon Cemetery. All are welcome.

The Sunday Brunch held at the hall on Sunday, May 16th was well attended. The ladies prepared the pancake and sausages and the men washed the dishes. Some washed more dishes than others! A fun time was had by all.

Psst. Anyone need an old piano? There's one for sale at the legion hall. It once

belonged to Art Chisholm's mother and is in need of some repair.

Weekly bingo is still quite popular with some early birds showing up at 6:00 p.m. for the 7:30 opening.

A fund-raiser cheese sale is again on the go and you should be getting a call from some of the members. If not, you could call Logan Spencer, Art Chisholm or any member to place your order on or before 29 May for pick-up on June 9. Please call Joan Richard at 662-3729 for further info.

The Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command Legion HQ in Halifax has produced a colourful 200-page book called "Military Service Recognition Booklet" which contains a photo and brief description of any military veteran's service in war or peace. If you would like a member of your family profiled in the next edition, please contact the branch ASAP.

Marion Bird tells me the next Wheels to Meals luncheon will consist of baked had-dock as the main fare on Tuesday, June 1, at 12 noon.

## HAMILTON

A sincere note of appreciation to everyone who has supported our family these past few weeks. The visits, food, phone calls, cards, offers of help and many hugs have meant so much. Thank you to those who attended the memorial service and to those who have made memorial donations.

A special thank you to Rev. Gerry Kerr, Pastor Scott Penner and Rev. Don MacQueen for their spiritual support.

A huge thank you to the members of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade, especially Greg Muise and Walter McElhinney, for hosting the

memorial service and to all firefighters who were in attendance. We were greatly touched and know Keith would have been very pleased with this celebration of his life. Thank you to the Honourary Pallbearers, to Wayne Elliott and friends for providing the music, to the UCW for the delicious lunch, and to Colchester Community Funeral Home for handling the arrangements.

Thank you to the doctors and nurses in the ICU and 4 South, you are very special people.

Most sincerely,  
Ellen, Judy, Bruce, Larry, Karen,  
Linda, Charles, Faye and families

## RCMP Open Community Office in Debert



Pictured are District 9 Councillor Bob White, Colchester Mayor Bob Taylor, Staff Sergeant Jay MacInnis and Christine Blair, Chair of the Colchester Police Advisory Board (l to r) as they cut the ribbon to officially open the RCMP's new West Colchester Office. It's located at the CoRDA Sales and Leasing Building, diagonally across MacElmon Road from the Debert Tim Horton's. (A. Johnson Photo)

By Linda Harrington

A ribbon cutting was held on May 5th to mark the official opening of the new community office of the Colchester County District RCMP located at the CoRDA Sales and Leasing Building, diagonally across MacElmon Road from the Debert Tim Horton's.

This cooperative initiative between Colchester County District RCMP, the Municipality of Colchester County and Colchester County Regional Development Association Colchester (CoRDA), was undertaken in an effort to establish a greater police presence in the north-west area of the county and provide a more accessible service to the residents of Colchester County.

"The presence of an RCMP policing office in Debert will certainly benefit the local community and the community at large," says Christine Blair, Chairperson of the Municipality of Colchester County's Police Advisory Board. "It will increase the visibility of the RCMP, one of the main requests from the general public at community meetings. It will provide a convenient location to officers with its proximity to the Highways 104 and 102 and in having a location to prepare reports, meet with the public, and save travel time back to the Bible Hill detachment. Very important, too, is increased police presence will be a strong deterrent to crime and that benefits all of us."

County Councillor Bob White has similar thoughts about the new location and he feels the new location is a

great benefit to West Colchester. "If they are dealing with issues or concerns in the area they have the satellite office to do their paperwork and don't have to go back to Bible Hill. If another matter comes up in the area they will be much faster responding," says Councillor White. "In the County we have Bible Hill, Tatamagouche and Stewiacke offices with regular staffing and now the Debert office, which can eventually grow with Debert and the surrounding area."

The office space is being provided by CoRDA, free of charge. "CoRDA, in working with community partners like the County of Colchester, saw a need for ensuring that policing services would be strategically located to serve businesses and residents in West Colchester," says Ron Smith, Director of Business Development. "It's the best way to use a resource like office space to help keep policing costs down."

The new office will not be staffed full time but it will provide a place for RCMP to meet with residents of West Colchester when necessary, instead of having residents go into Bible Hill. A press release from the Colchester County District RCMP states the office will be used for citizens to meet with RCMP members, provide statements, complete motor vehicle crash reports and other non emergency administrative functions.

**The RCMP advise the public that all emergencies should continue to be reported through Bible Hill Detachment and/or the 911 system.**

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) 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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