

REES' Pieces

I'd like to devote a couple of paragraphs to say how pleased I am everyone had an enjoyable time at our 90 & 90+ birthday party on May 7th. I was to personally thank Peter Heckbert for his hard work in contacting the seniors, conducting the interviews and arranging the biography sketches printed at the back of this issue. Many others made significant contributions, but Peter was the man behind the scenes who really made it successful.

Earlier in the month, I was going to write about how Canadians are like a flock of sheep – easily led, once one starts all follow. The example was the thousands of voters in Quebec who decided to vote NDP – voting for a candidate they had not met, who did no political advertising; did not have a campaign team or office, and in one case the winning MP had never even been in the riding.

Then I thought about tackling the Dexter government for their backtracking on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Union of Municipalities. For over a decade all levels of government have been downloading to the next in line. There is only one taxpayer, and when it comes election time, Dexter's NDP will claim fame for cutting the deficit, balancing the budget, or some other topic they can use as a plank in their re-election platform.

I wonder if the taxpayer and municipal politicians will remember all these changes were done on the backs of the municipalities, who had to source the monies from us lowly taxpayers.

Another topic which crossed my mind was to express comment about the new hospital. It's nice to have a modern hospital, but I'm sure after year or so, many taxpayers, who become patients or are family members of patients are going to say, it's nice, but the nearly \$200-million expenditure did not cure the problems we were facing in the old facility.

If the hospital had been the focus of this column, I would have expressed my displeasure the health board is going to spend upwards of \$1-million to demolish the current hospital. If the structure is sound enough to provide medical services, I sure with some retro-fit and a new mission in life, there's 20-30 years left in the bricks and mortar.

The health authority could easily save local taxpayers at least half or three quarters of a million dollars. Mayors Mills and Taylor need to step up to the plate, bring their councils with them, and councilors can motivate constituents.

The municipal units should pull together all community based organizations – homeless housing, public housing, women's shelters, the needy who can't afford adequate accommodations, and the private sector to find a new use for the building.

Together these groups could force the health authority to sell the property for \$1.00, and then provide \$500,000 to \$750,000.00 to assist with the retro-fit. In the end the new hospital costs less, and an additional service is jointly provided for the area.

But more recently another topic had come to the forefront.

With Colchester's municipal council passing the "clear garbage" bag policy, either some people have decided to get an early start on disposing of their garbage in the woods, or else the opposition from some taxpayers, who claimed the clear bag policy would lead to illegal dumping has put the matter at the leading conversation of the coffee club circuit. It was a tough decision for councilors, but when they learned other municipalities who operate the clear bag policy had shown a 30% improvement in diversions from the landfill, their decision was made.

Now local citizens have stepped up to the plate, either because they fear illegal dumping will increase, or just awareness of the topic has caused them to take action to report existing dumps.

Illegal dumping areas have been found in Bass River, Lornevale Road, Great Village and on East Mountain Road. For an example see two stories on the topic on Page 1 – the illegal site in Great Village and the Shoreline announcing a Photo Contest for residents to send in pictures of other sites.

Investigations are underway, councillors are adamant the full force of the law will be used. Illegal dump sites are ILLEGAL. It's up to residents to report any they know about.

Everyone needs to work hard to Keep Colchester Clean.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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May 16, 2011
Editor:
(Re: Great Village Post Office
Hours of Operation)
Dear Sir:

The information printed in the last month's Shoreline Journal regarding the hours of operation of the Great Village Post Office was incorrect.

The post office will remain open 8-11 on Saturday morning and closed on Wednesday afternoon, as per usual.

I would appreciate it if you would notify your readers of the error.

Thank you,

Bev Smith,
Postmaster, Great Village.

Editor: We don't intentionally publish incorrect information. I received notification concerning intentions or discussions regarding changing hours. I'm checking my sources.

May 15, 2011
Maurice, Editor

I wish to extend a very sincere than you to your and all of your helpers for the birthday party, you hosted for all of us who are 90 years old in 2011 and many 90+ guests. A special thank you to all the politicians, who were present and so graciously serviced us and presented the certificates. Also a special thank you to the Economy UCW who prepared a very tasty meal.

It was a memorable afternoon and an opportunity to see many friends, some we haven't seen or been in touch with for many years.

Thank you, also, on behalf of many who attend, but may not be able to thank you personally.

Iona Canning,
Five Islands.
May 17, 2011
Maurice,

Thanks for much for hosting the 90 & 90+ birthday party for the seniors along the shore.

It was a lovely party and greatly appreciated by all who attended.

If possible, please publish this picture of our good friends, Doug and Jennie Slack of Plains Road, Debert, taken the same day of the party. We stopped in to present them with their certificates, flowers and cake.

They were delighted.
Thanks again.

Sharon McCully Croft

PS: Doug and Jennie Slack will celebrate their 69th anniversary on June 20, 2011. My parents, Robert Beattie and Crace McCully will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on May 31, 2011.

(Editor: See the Slack's photo on Page 25)

Letter to the Editor,
Dear Maurice and Dorothy,

I am writing to say a very sincere Thank You to you and your staff for the 90 & 90+ birthday celebration held at the Economy Recreation Center on May 7th. It was fantastic!!

Too many times people, like myself, go about our business of raising our families, making a living and tend to be focused so much on these challenges that we tend to lose track of the very people who have been the backbone of our rural communities.

Whether it be the teacher, the grocer, snow plow driver or the homemaker who put up with us during our pre-adult

years, you provided an opportunity for these folks to be recognized.

As a politician it was easy for me to show up, help serve dinner and get some exposure or lime light and then walk out the door.

I want to make it clear to all your readers, that this was totally, 100% the result of your hard work. I want to make it clear this celebration was totally arranged and financed by the two of you and the Shoreline Journal. For that, I again say "Thank You".

Not only did you recognize our seniors but you brought some positive publicity to West Colchester in the advance publicity on CBC Radio and other media. The

Thursday and Friday following this celebration I was at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities spring meetings in Digby.

During an afternoon session on providing age friendly communities Mrs. Valerie White, CEO, Nova Scotia Seniors Secretariat spoke and told a group of approximately 200 Mayors and Councilors about this great birthday party she had been to in West Colchester the previous Saturday. She suggested to these same community leaders, from around the province, what a great way it was to honor their seniors.

Once again Thanks
Tom Taggart, Councilor District 10

The Shoreline Journal

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ECONOMY: Economy Country Store	ONSLow: Onslow Market
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Art Show at Mo's until July 26th

Four of Nova Scotia's prominent painters are having an art show at Mo's Restaurant in Five Islands. Joy Laking, Susan Tookey, Richard Rudnicki and Susan Paterson spent two weeks during the last two years, painting out on Long Island, one of the Five Islands in the Bay of Fundy. The paintings

capture the lighting, the tides, and the beauty of Long Island and the Bay. Joy Laking lives in West Colchester and the other three artists are from Halifax. Everyone is invited to meeting the artists at the opening on June 3, at Mos between 6 and 9pm. The exhibition will be on display until July 26th.

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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