

Dorothy's Kitchen Korner

Sleet on May 23? - Awful

Last month I mentioned pot-holes, and now this month there are three things, pot-holes are still there, some even worse; it's been cool, but the grass and weeds are growing fast and finally, when will the weather change to either spring or summer. Having sleet and in some places snow flurries this late in May is not my idea of a way to spend a weekend.



And to think about it, farmers are not finished planting this year's crop and some fields are still too wet to be worked. This time last year, at least within the next 10 days of reading this some farmers were making their first cut in the hay field and working like busy beavers storing silage, or haylage.

This spring sure must be causing concern to all the garden centres. A late spring for a very short selling season does not bode well for them. I haven't even thought about a few bedding plants or hanging baskets. The weather has been just too miserable.

Normally, this time of year, Maurice is urging me to get some fiddleheads, but I haven't even noticed them in the stores yet, but they might be there. I haven't been shopping for groceries for over a week. Maurice also likes to head down to "the caves" a spot near here, and pick a few. Being from New Brunswick you could pick fiddleheads almost anywhere. Maurice's birthday is coming up in mid-June, so I guess I best start getting prepared. He's not much on traditional birthday cake. His annual request is Tomato Soup Cake with cream cheese frosting dotted with some shredded coconut.

Tomato Soup Cake

- 2 cups all-purpose flour • 1 1/3 cups granulated sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder • 1 1/2 teaspoons ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon baking soda • 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) Campbell's Tomato Soup
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
- 2 eggs • 1/4 cup water

Frosting:

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons milk • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 package (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar

Heat the oven to 350°F (I prefer to cook at 325 or 335) Grease a 13x9-inch baking pan.

Stir the flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, allspice, baking soda, cinnamon and cloves in a large bowl. Add the soup, shortening, eggs and water. Beat with an electric mixer on low speed just until blended. Increase the speed to high and beat for 4 minutes. Pour the batter into the pan.

Bake for 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let the cake cool in the pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes.

Beat the cream cheese, milk and vanilla extract (Maurice prefers almond extract) in a medium bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until the mixture is creamy. Slowly beat in the confectioners' sugar until the mixture is the desired consistency. Maurice likes coconut, so I add some to the mixture and stir fold in with a large spoon. Frost the cake with the cream cheese mixture. I then sprinkle a bit on top of the frosting.

If you have a favourite family recipe, please send by June 15th, so I can use in the July issue. If you are dropping off recipes to the store, please note we have moved to 94 Esplanade and are located three doors away from Murphy's Fish & Chips or send to:

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Notes from our National Capital Federal Budget Demonstrates Commitment to Jobs, Growth and Lower Taxes in Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

Finance Minister Joe Oliver recently tabled our Government's budget. As your MP, I welcome our Conservative Government's Economic Action Plan 2015. It will support jobs and growth in Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley (CCMV), help our families and communities prosper and ensure the security of all Canadians.

We have kept our promise to Canadians by balancing the budget in 2015, the first balanced budget since the Great Recession. The projected surplus is \$1.4 billion in 2015-2016, rising to \$4.8 billion by 2019-2020.

Under our leadership, Canada has created over 1.2 million new jobs since the recession, but we live in uncertain times and the global economy remains fragile. That's why Economic Action Plan 2015 will continue our Government's focus on creating more jobs and growing the economy in CCMV and across the

Notes from our Provincial Capital Greater focus on math and literacy

The 2015 provincial budget has passed, and I am very proud of the support contained there for Education, including our students and teachers. It formed a significant part of the overall budget. As the Minister of Education, it is my mandate and responsibility to make decisions that are in the best interest of kids. In preparing my budget, which is the second largest within the provincial budget, I identified areas within our public schools that needed to change and/or receive more attention.

In particular, there will be a greater focus on math and literacy, beginning in Grades Primary to 3. Our statistics show student achievement scores are low and we need to reverse that trend. There will be an integrated program in these core subjects with essential outcomes clearly identified and indicative of success so teachers can clearly track and record student achievement.

There will be the return of math mentors to help students who are struggling and teachers who need support. There will be

News from our Municipal Council - District 10 Agriculture creates jobs and supports local businesses

Well we are finally getting our share of good weather. It is a very enjoyable drive to and from work this week and to see the farmers all going daylight to dark to get their fields ready and their crops in. Farming will be the focus of my article this month.

Earlier this month I attended the UNSM spring meetings and one of the speakers was Don Mills who heads up a major polling and consulting company in N.S. He provided us with lots of stats and opinions on the future and what was needed to make N.S. prosper. The usual, take advantage of natural resources, immigration, reduce government, move all government offices to these supposed urban circles, (you can guess what I thought of that) ship building etc.

However the one comment which really got my attention was the fastest growing exports from Nova Scotia were agriculture

News from our Municipal Council - District 9 Fracking Wastewater going to Brookfield

When the Lafarge cement plant, near Brookfield, conducted a pilot project in the spring of 2014 with the evaporation of two million litres of treated fracking wastewater we hoped this could possibly be a viable disposal solution for the product being held in Atlantic Industrial Services (AIS) holding ponds in Debert.

The results of this project confirmed that evaporation at 700 C in the Lafarge cement kiln is a viable solution. Before being evaporated the wastewater had been treated for naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) and put through reverse osmosis. As part of this project, Lafarge did water testing before, during and after evaporation. The test showed comparable results for cooling water normally used by the plant from nearby Shortts Lake.

The Department of Environment has now given AIS and Lafarge the green light to use the approximately ten million litres remaining in Debert as cooling water in the kiln. This is definite-

country.

Economic Action Plan 2015 includes key measures to support local families and to support the Nova Scotia economy, including:

Supporting Families: Economic Action Plan 2015 benefits 100% of families with children by lowering taxes and increasing benefits. An average family will receive \$6,600 in support per year due to measures our government has introduced.

Extending employment insurance compassionate care benefits: From 6 weeks to 6 months, effective January 2016, to support struggling workers caring for family members who are gravely ill.

Tax Free Savings Account: Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to increase the Tax-Free Savings Account annual contribution limit to \$10,000, effective for the 2015 taxation year. There



Scott Armstrong

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a return of the Reading Recovery Program...an evidence-based and research-based program for Grade 1 students who are having difficulty learning to read. These supports were slashed by the previous NDP government.

The class sizes in Grades P-2 will be capped at 20 students, and Grades 3-4 capped at 25 students. All of these initiatives are possible because our Liberal Government has identified math and literacy as priorities, and has committed to re-investing the \$65 million cut from classrooms by the previous NDP government.

We have a responsibility and a commitment to our students to give them the best possible education so they can graduate and be ready for the many learning and employment opportunities that await them. We are doing this by making changes in the class-



Karen Casey

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and aquaculture. Then just today I was reading an article about the drought in California. This article stated that California was the leading supplier of fruit, vegetables, and livestock crops in North America. It stated there is currently just one year of above ground reservoirs remaining and the underground aquifer is being drawn down in excess of its recharge rate. Clearly this will have an effect on the cost of our groceries, but it does bode well for agriculture in Colchester County



Tom Taggart

Two points I would like to bring forward.

When we talk about jobs and economic development, we mostly talk about manufacturing, distribution, tourism, but we rarely see agriculture as an economic generator. I think we take it for granted. Let's take a closer look. We all can see the growth in

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ly good news for those who had concerns about this wastewater entering and possibly causing harm to the Bay of Fundy ecosystem.

The same testing before, during and after evaporation will be conducted and monitored by the Department of Environment. I would suspect once this has been completed the focus would then be concentrated on the fracking wastewater being held in ponds in Kennetcook. County council has changed the sewer use by-law as to not allow any fracking wastewater, treated or not, to enter the County sewer system at any time in the future. Let's hope this keeps us from going down this road again in the future.



Doug MacInnes

I would like to thank Lafarge Canada and especially the team at the Brookfield plant for the research, time and energy they

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